THE TIMES

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Court orders new spy book gag on papers

Press rejects calls for 'prior undertakings'

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

The Government began a battle on a new front yesterday in its increasingly tortuous efforts to prevent Fleet Street publishing material about the security services.

It obtained an interim injunction against *The Observer* banning the newspaper from publishing material from *Inside Intelligence* by Mr Antony Cavendish, an ex-member of MI6. Mr Donald Trelford, the editor, refused to give an undertaking not to publish extracts.

The Government also failed to get such an undertaking from *The Sunday Times*, which broke the story of Mr Cavendish's memoirs last week, holding out the possibility of further legal action.

The Government's action, which has the Prime Minister's approval, was denounced by the newspapers.

Mr Trelford described the injunction as disgraceful and accused the Government of adopting "police state tactics".

Mr Brian MacArthur, executive editor of *The Sunday Times*, said his newspaper would fight any attempt by the Treasury Solicitors to obtain an injunction.

"Our attitude is it is for us to make the decision what to publish and the Government to act when it is done, not to impose a system of dog licences on newspapers telling them what they can or cannot publish," he said.

Mr Cavendish, who has published his book privately and sent 500 copies to friends as Christmas presents, has promised the Government that he will not attempt to disseminate its contents more widely.

Last night he said the matter was "out of his hands", but he did not think his memoirs represented a threat to national security and that he found the Government's action "incredible".

A Downing Street spokesman said yesterday that ministers had acted to uphold the principle that members of the security services owed a lifelong duty of confidentiality to the Crown.

It is this principle that has underpinned the Government's world-wide and largely unsuccessful legal quest to block publication of *Spycatcher*, the memoirs of Mr Peter Wright, the former MI5 officer.

Mr Cavendish has said that the whole object of his exercise was to defend the good name of his old friend, the late Sir Maurice Oldfield, Mrs Thatcher's former security supremo in Northern Ireland and an ex-director-general of MI6.

Mr Cavendish claims that since his death in 1981 Sir Maurice has been the subject of a smear campaign alleging homosexual involvement with male prostitutes.



Mr Cavendish: "Disgusting allegations."

Mr Cavendish says these allegations are "disgusting, ludicrous and not true", adding: "I have achieved my purpose in defending Maurice's name."

According to Downing Street, the Government acted yesterday after asking *The Observer* for an assurance that it would not publish material obtained from Mr Cavendish in breach of his duty of confidence to the Crown.

The newspaper was unwilling to comply so the Government sought and obtained the interim injunction, a spokesman said.

Government sources also disclosed that ministers had been aware for some time that *The Observer* obtained a copy of the book early last summer when Cassells were considering publishing it and when there was talk of serialization.

The Downing Street spokesman added: "This is a separate matter between the Government and *The Observer*.

Mr Trelford said that the Treasury Solicitors asked him on Thursday to give an undertaking that his newspaper would not publish any details from Mr Cavendish's memoirs. "I always refuse to give prior undertakings to the Government about what I will or will not publish. I see it as an attempt to harass and restrict our freedom of speech.

Mr Trelford personally asked the judge, Mr Justice Kennedy — yesterday's hearing was held in Winchester near his home — to hold the hearing on Saturday to give the newspaper time to obtain legal advice. "Instead, he granted an injunction without any evidence at all of our having any intention to publish anything.

"It really is disgraceful to mount an operation of this kind when it was not possible for us to get legal representation and when we had made it quite clear we would be ready to fight it tomorrow . . . These are real police state tactics and clearly come from Downing Street," Mr Trelford said.

The newspaper was considering applying for the injunction to be discharged.

Mr MacArthur said *The Sunday Times* had received a similar request for undertakings from the Treasury Solicitors.

But he added: "After taking advice, we have written back saying we cannot give them the assurances they want."

The Sunday Times intended fighting any attempts by the Treasury Solicitors to obtain an injunction.

INSIDE

TRAVEL WITH



Beginning our expanded travel coverage this month, a post-seasonal cleansing in the waters of Marienbad, a trip to Jamaica and an up-to-the-minute guide showing where to find the elusive snow

● Plus . . . the new year Jumbo Crossword, offering a £50 prize to each of five winners

NEXT WEEK

I'm backing Britain . . .

Twenty years ago, amid a balance of payments crisis, five office girls started the patriotic campaign that captured the nation's imagination. On Monday, The Times catches up with them

. . . and so are they (mostly)

On Tuesday The Times talks to the world's leading economic think tanks about Britain's prospects for 1988

Portfolio

● There will be £12,000 to be won in The Times Portfolio Gold daily competition on Monday because there were no winners yesterday, the third consecutive day.

● There is no competition today because of the New Year bank holiday.

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New citizen Hana celebrates with Australia



Tennis player Hana Mandlikova standing with the Australian flag after a naturalization ceremony in Sydney yesterday.

Blacks protest as party starts

By Our Foreign Staff

Australians yesterday marked the start of a year-long celebration of the bicentenary of the arrival of European settlers with parties across the continent, protests by Aborigines and fights.

Aboriginal activists — descendants of the original inhabitants who were devastated by the European impact — launched into a declared "year of mourning" and disrupted a ceremonial start by Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, to what is billed as a year-long party.

In contrast, the celebrating whites for whom Australia has proved a bountiful home included Hana Mandlikova, the Czechoslovak-born tennis player, who became the country's newest settler at a naturalization ceremony yesterday.

Miss Mandlikova became an Australian citizen after marrying Mr Jan Sedlak, a Sydney restaurant owner, whom she met at the age of 16 on her first visit to Australia. The couple plan to settle in Sydney.

Other Australians of longer standing attended thousands of celebratory events, including spectacular firework displays.

Mr Hawke set the ball rolling, opening a new Bicentennial Park in the western suburbs of Sydney.

Aboriginal protestors waved banners with the slogans "White Australia has a black history" and "We all walk on aboriginal land" as Mr Hawke spoke. They attempted to drown him out with cries of "two hundred years of murder and shame".

Mr Hawke did not mention the Aborigines specifically in his speech, but recognized the protest by saying that the bicentenary meant acknowledging the mistakes and crimes of the past.

Dublin celebrates.....3

About thirty Aboriginal women and children threw a garland of gumleaves into the sea off a pier in Melbourne in protest at the arrival of a fleet of tall ships, representing those of the First Fleet.

The celebrations got out of hand in the west coast port of Fremantle, where several thousand revellers were involved in a drunken fight in which shop windows were smashed and dozens of people injured.

Fremantle police said that 66 people were arrested, while in other excessive revelry across the country more than 1,000 arrests were made.

Family of five die in house blaze

By David Sapsted

A mother watched in horror early yesterday as her husband and four of her children died in a fire at their home at Merthyr Tydfil, Mid-Glamorgan.

Mrs Yvonne Bond, aged 30, escaped in her nightclothes from the blazing house on the Galon Uchaf Estate. She accidentally locked herself out of the semi-detached house and had to be held back by neighbours after trying to smash her way back inside.

Fire officers used breathing apparatus carried the four children from upstairs bedrooms but attempts to revive them failed. They were Shaun, aged two months, Danielle, aged two, Hayley, aged three, and Shannon, aged six.

Boy hero.....2

Their father, Mr Freddie Watkins, aged 30, was found dead in a bed. A fifth child, Camille, aged five, was critically ill but stable last night in the intensive care unit at the Prince Charles Hospital, Merthyr Tydfil.

Neighbours on the estate said they awakened shortly before 8am yesterday by the sound of screams and windows exploding from intense heat. Mrs Gwyneth Amos, said she had tried to help Mrs Bond to reach the children.

"There was nothing we could do to get back inside the house. It was just a sheet of flames. Yvonne was in a terrible state, screaming that the children were inside with her husband", Mrs Amos said.

"We couldn't see any fire upstairs, just this thick smoke. It was impossible to see anything. Several neighbours had a go at getting inside before the firemen came, but it was hopeless. We are all just stunned."

Fire officers believe that the fire, the cause of which is unknown, may have smouldered in the downstairs living room before filling the house with smoke. Mr John Forest, a divisional fire officer, said: "The upstairs rooms were so badly smoke-logged that those upstairs in bed did not have much chance of surviving".

Mrs Amos said: "There was no new year's eve party in the house. The children were on the doorstep at about 1am wishing a happy new year to

Continued on page 2, col 5

Tory backbenchers seek return of the cane

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

Conservative backbenchers are to try to reintroduce corporal punishment at state schools, only 18 months after it was banned, amid mounting signs of ministerial concern about pupil indiscipline and violence.

Mr Kenneth Baker, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, has instructed school inspectors to prepare an urgent report on standards of classroom behaviour and is giving serious consideration to a crackdown.

The Prime Minister is said to share his alarm and is taking a close interest in the outcome of the disciplinary review at the Department of Education and Science.

Yesterday, Mr James Pawsey, chairman of the backbench Tory education committee, said he would propose an amendment to the Education Reform Bill now going through Parliament.

Mr Pawsey, MP for Rugby and Kenilworth, said there was substantial support among his colleagues for a clause giving parents the right to decide whether their children should be beaten for serious offences.

An identical measure was lost by one vote in a Commons debate in 1986 in spite of the Government mobilizing the payroll vote in its favour.

It had been assumed that since the rebuff, ministers had regarded the issue as closed. However, senior education department sources said it would be wrong to be "totally dismissive" of the chances of the backbench move receiving Government support.

Mr Pawsey said yesterday he believed that with a new Parliament it was time to test the water once again.

"There are quite a few new members and we will have to see how they will vote.

"I am concerned about indiscipline in schools, which has undoubtedly become worse in recent years with the erosion of traditional moral values and the restraint once exercized by the family.



Mr Pawsey: convinced he has teachers' support

"I am not arguing that pupils should be caned willy-nilly, but I do want to restore a proven and effective sanction and then leave it up to parents to decide if their children would have fewer learning difficulties if they knew corporal punishment was available as a weapon of last resort."

Mr Baker has ordered the schools inspectorate to prepare a detailed assessment of the disciplinary situation in state schools.

His action comes in the wake of a survey of the problem carried out at the end of last year by the Professional Association of Teachers.

Of the 1,500 teachers who responded, 86 per cent said that classroom violence was increasing and 94 per cent believed that indiscipline was becoming more commonplace.

The survey found that 32 per cent of teachers had been physically attacked by a pupil and 5 per cent by a parent. In addition, 80 per cent had been

Continued on page 22, col 8

Superpowers look to next arms deal

From Christopher Walker, Moscow, and Christopher Thomas, Washington

The newly improved atmosphere between the superpowers was underlined dramatically last night when President Reagan and Mr Gorbachov exchanged televised new year's messages in which both said they hoped to sign a treaty limiting strategic nuclear missiles in the first half of 1988.

Mr Reagan, delivering only the second televised address by a US president to the Soviet people in 15 years, told an audience estimated at more than 100 million that the Americans were determined to reach a second arms control pact in time for his fourth meeting with Mr Gorbachov, scheduled for the spring.

The President, whose five-minute broadcast was shown in full, was more controversial and hard-hitting than Mr Gorbachov. He reaffirmed his commitment to the Star Wars plan for a space shield against nuclear missiles — which the Kremlin maintains is the main obstacle to any strategic weapons treaty.

Mr Reagan told Soviet viewers, in flat contradiction of the warnings given by their own leadership: "Today, both America and the Soviet Union have an opportunity to develop a defensive shield against ballistic missiles — a defensive shield that will threaten no one."

The President also made an indirect appeal for an end to the Soviet military presence in Afghanistan, an involvement that US intelligence reports have recently suggested is provoking mounting resentment among ordinary Soviet citizens.

He declared: "We Americans are also concerned, as I know you are, about senseless conflicts in a number of

Continued on page 22, col 2

Liverpool stretch their legs and their lead

Liverpool began the new year yesterday in the same way they had left the old — by increasing their lead in the race for the Football League championship. Yesterday they went 13 points in front with a 4-0 win over Coventry City, while their nearest rivals either lost or drew.

Nottingham Forest, who had just about been keeping Liverpool in their sights, were beaten 2-0 by Newcastle United, their first home defeat since September 12. Everton lost 1-0 at Sheffield Wednesday, while Arsenal was held to a draw away at Portsmouth and Manchester United drew at home with Charlton Athletic.

England's plans for the international rugby union championship were upset when their centres, Simon Halliday and the uncapped John Buckton, were injured during training

Sport, pages 28-32

Crackdown on drink drivers cuts accident total

By David Sapsted

The Christmas holiday crackdown by police on drinking and driving was hailed as a success yesterday with police forces reporting a drop of almost 20 per cent in the number of accidents between December 19 and the year's end.

Mr Peter Joslin, the chief constable of Warwickshire who has been compiling figures from forces in England and Wales, said last night that the results appeared to show a fall in drinking and driving.

Results from 37 of 43 forces showed that although a record number of drivers were tested, the tally of positive results over the Christmas period declined by 7 per cent on 1986 while the number of accidents dropped by about 18 per cent.

"The number of accidents is really the significant figure and it does indicate there has been a genuine reduction in the amount of drinking and driving this Christmas", Mr Joslin said.

New Year temperatures were well above average, and the London Weather Centre recorded readings of 15C (59F) yesterday. Much colder weather is expected by the middle of next week.

Forecasts, page 22

The Department of Transport said: "Quite clearly the 'Don't Drink and Drive' message has been a success this year.

The trend seems to show fewer accidents on the roads and the police have been having success at local levels where more motorists than ever before have been breath-tested.

"The public has responded well. The figures show that comparatively few people have ignored warnings."

The number of positive tests between December 23-31 dropped from 2,114 in 1986 to only 1,877 this Christmas. Figures from the Metropolitan Police will not be ready until next week.

Dorset police said the number of road injuries had declined by 40 per cent on the previous year. The number of breathalyser tests was doubled during the 1987 Christmas yet the total of positive results was down by 11 per cent on 1986, Supt David Russell said.

"The figures are very encouraging. The majority of motorists are to be congratulated on their responsible attitude in taking heed of the Department of Transport's campaign."

The toughness of this year's crackdown was illustrated in Bedfordshire where police sealed off some towns and villages and tested everyone on the road. In Dunstable, three motorists who recorded positive tests were kept in police cells over Christmas.

Not all forces, however, regarded the clampdown as a success. In Devon and Cornwall, the number of accidents during the period rose from 57 in 1986 to 84 this Christmas. On Merseyside, on the other hand, the total dropped from 135 12 months ago to 72 during the last 10 days of 1987.

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Girl, 11, stabbed by passing driver

Police are searching for a knifeman after a girl aged 11 was stabbed in the chest in a motiveless attack yesterday.

The girl had been cycling near her home at Sway in the New Forest, Hampshire, when the man got out of his car and grabbed her after asking for directions. He stabbed her in the chest before speeding off.

The girl, whose name has not been released by the police, was taken to Southampton General Hospital where she is said to be in a serious condition.

Hampshire police described the incident as a "completely unprovoked attack on an innocent little girl" and appealed for witnesses.

The attack happened at about 1.45pm. The girl staggered to a house near by, clutching her chest in agony, to raise the alarm.

She told the police that her attacker was in his twenties with dark brown, shoulder-length hair. He was wearing a grey coat and was scruffy in appearance. He was driving an E-registration red car.

Solicitor found

Mr Philip Thomas, the solicitor from South Molton, North Devon, who disappeared before Christmas after abandoning his car at an Exmoor beauty spot, has been traced by police.

Mr Molton, aged 40, was alive and well and had been touring the West Country on his own, staying in hotels. The police traced his movements from cheques he had cashed.

"We are no longer concerned for Mr Thomas's safety and we now consider this to be a private and domestic matter", he said.

Speelman draws

Jonathan Speelman and the Russian Lev Psakhis drew their fourth round match after three hours' play in the Foreign and Colonial Grandmaster chess tournament at Hastings yesterday (Harry Golombek writes).

Chandler was making a demonstration on the king side with considerable attacking prospects against Short. Davies had position of an own file against Larsen with interesting prospects, while Nunn had gained a pawn against Benjamin, whose position might prove difficult to defend.

No winning touch

Entries in a BBC competition for film and video makers over the age of 25 were so bad that the judges made no award.

Instead the prize money in the contest, run jointly by BBC Television and the *Radio Times*, was split between winners in the two categories for younger people, aged between 11 and 15 and from 16 to 24.

Mr Michael Apted, chairman of the judges, said yesterday on *Showreel '87* on BBC2: "No one entry stood out from the others".

Cardinal's peace call

Cardinal Tomás O'Fiaich, the Roman Catholic Primate of Ireland, said yesterday that the British Government could do more to foster reconciliation between the two communities in Northern Ireland.

Preaching in Armagh, he called for an end to strip searching of detainees and the repatriation of Irish prisoners from English to Ulster jails to make it easier for relatives to visit them.

● The Ulster New Year opened with an Army post being raked by machine-gun fire in Londonderry, and the discovery of an arms cache in a Belfast flat.

Police hold-up

An armed man held up the police station at Thetford, Norfolk, early yesterday for nearly an hour.

He was demanding the release of a relative who was being detained in connection with a public order offence.

Norfolk police said the man threatened people with what appeared to be a home-made gun.

He later left the building and was overpowered by officers.

A man is due to appear at a special court in the station today on charges in connection with the incident.

Barbara Castle plans comeback on home front

By Our Political Correspondent

Mrs Barbara Castle, the indefatigable Labour politician and former Cabinet minister, is planning a new career in British politics – at the age of 77.

Mrs Castle, who spent 34 years in the Commons until 1979, disclosed yesterday that she will not seek re-election next year as Euro-MP for Greater Manchester West.

Instead, she wants to return to an active role on the domestic stage.

A peerage would be her most obvious route back to national prominence, but Mrs Castle said she was ambivalent about taking a seat in the Lords.

In any case, she had not been asked and, if an approach were made, much would depend on the exact circumstances of the time.



Mrs Barbara Castle in Southampton yesterday.

"But the Lords is not the only place one could be politically active. I am by long practice a propagandist, a speaker and a writer, and it's by speaking and writing and joining in discussions about policy development that I would like to make my contribution", Mrs Castle, who was staying with relatives in Southampton, said yesterday.

The former first lady of the Wilson Governments of 1966-70 and 74-76, in which she held Cabinet rank at the employment department and then social services, said her appetite for the fray had been sharpened by the woman many regard as her Conservative counterpart – Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

"I happen to believe that what is happening to Britain under Mrs Thatcher is a historic cataclysm. It is an earthquake of the most horrendous proportions, destroying the things I have spent my life on", she said.

"I would like to get back on the domestic scene and join the fightback against the disastrous effects of Margaret Thatcher's policies because she is totally changing British society in ways and at a pace that people don't realize and won't realize until it's too late. This is a historic time in the evolution of both Conservatism and socialism.

"Our MPs in the House are doing a fantastic job – I just want to add my voice to theirs".

She was even more fulsome in her praise of Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, saying that he was doing a fantastically courageous job and that she admired the way he had ridden a series of disappointments.

"The most important quality in politics is moral stamina – and Neil's got it", she said.

Mrs Castle, who will have been a Euro-MP for a decade by the time she returns from Strasbourg and who has led the Labour group for several years, said she was in particular demand as a speaker from young people, but her busy schedule made it impossible for her to accept the many invitations she received from university Labour clubs.

"The very length and breadth of my experience in politics is something that fascinates young people – they want to draw on it."

The former scourge of the trade unions and the hospital consultants also had some characteristically forthright words for the dilatory ways of Strasbourg, comparing them less than favourably with the immediacy of Westminster. But she had found satisfaction in the glorious investigative politics of unwrapping the Euro-jargon.

"Do you know there isn't even a division bell in the committee room? When I think of the sacredness of the Commons vote, and here we have a system which relies on the accidental majority, those who happen to be around at the right time.

"Anyway, the votes here don't matter a damn. In this parliament there are too many obstacles to effective democratic control.

"You can't have democratic control when everything has to be translated into eight or nine languages and when you have to wait a week for postage. In the Commons I used to pick up the latest amendment on the way into the chamber and be on my feet attacking the Government about it two minutes later.

"They don't understand how to run a parliament here. It's scandalous. We are scattered all over the place and there is no back-up. I've tried to put in my little quota for reform, but I will be moving on when the Euro elections come round in 1989."

Labour urge damages for veterans in nuclear tests

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

The Labour Party yesterday demanded "full and just" compensation for former British servicemen affected by radiation during nuclear tests in the 1950s.

The call by Mr Denzil Davies, Opposition defence spokesman, came after the publication of Cabinet papers under the 30-year rule which suggested ministers were unsure of the risks involved when servicemen, some of whom have since contracted cancers or died of the disease, were sent to the tests.

Meanwhile, Dr John Cunningham, the Opposition environment spokesman, reacted to the separate disclosure under the rule that the Macmillan government censored a report on a fire at the Windscale plutonium plant in Cumbria.

He said it underlined the need for a freedom of information Act, but said "there is much more openness now about the management of the industry, particularly as far as civil nuclear power is concerned".

Dr John Gittus, a director of the Atomic Energy Authority, denied reports that only now, 30 years after the event, were they starting to clear up the waste caused by the fire.

"It has always been safe and secure inside a thick concrete building. What we are doing is rescuing some of it so that it can be processed."

In another development, Mr Ray Burke, the minister for energy in the Irish government, renewed Dublin's call for Windscale, now known as Sellafield, to be closed because it was a danger to the people of Ireland.

Mr Davies, who intends to raise the long-running issue of compensation for servicemen in the Commons, said the documents demonstrated "beyond peradventure that British servicemen were sent in the 1950s by the Government to conduct nuclear tests in the Pacific and in South Australia without any real protection against the dangers of radiation.

"The Government had little concern for the welfare of the servicemen and was entirely motivated by its desire to carry out the tests quickly to impress the Americans.

"The Government now has a moral obligation to those who have loyally served Britain to sit down with them and their families and agree a full and just compensation for the injuries which they have suffered."

Mr Harold Macmillan, then Prime Minister, told MPs on February 13, 1957, that the radiation dose arising from the weapons tests was insignificant compared with that received from natural causes. This view was endorsed by the Medical Research Council.

But the documents show that the Chiefs of Staff, who met two months after the test in South Australia, admitted they were dealing with an "unknown quantity".

The National Radiological Protection Board is expected shortly to publish a survey of 22,000 veterans of Britain's testing programme of the 1950s and 1960s.

Last year, the Government repealed section 10 of the Crown Proceedings Act, which gave the Ministry of Defence immunity against actions for negligence.

But the Government refused to backdate the Act, which would have entitled the veterans to seek compensation.

Teenager is fire hero



Brian McClay with Christopher and Richard Lloyd and their nephew, Damien (centre) after rescuing them from a blazing house at Malinslee, Telford, Shropshire, yesterday. Brian, aged 15, also rescued Damien's mother. Mr Richard Lloyd, her father, collapsed after being overcome by fumes and was dragged from the house by Brian's father, Mr William McClay. The fire started in a chip pan.

Five killed in house blaze

Continued from page 1

people on their way past the house."

She said: "They were a nice, quiet family with lovely children. The whole estate is just stunned by such an enormous tragedy."

Mrs Bond was under sedation in hospital suffering from severe shock. Her sister, Mrs Christine Meredith, said after visiting her: "I do not think she can really accept her kids are dead. She will never get over this."

Chief Supt Bob Evans, head of Merthyr Tydfil police, said: "Every police officer, every fire service officer and ambulance officer who attended the scene was deeply distressed at what they saw."

He said Mrs Bond had escaped by jumping from a front bedroom window. He said she was woken by a noise, and Mr Watkins had looked out of a window to see flames coming from a window below. Home Office forensic scientists and a fire investigation team were trying last night to determine the cause of the blaze.

● About 70 fire officers took three hours to control a chemical blaze which raced through warehouses and units at an industrial estate yesterday.

The fire is believed to have started in a textile warehouse and spread quickly to three neighbouring buildings at the Rich Industrial Estate, Crayford Road, Crayford, Kent.

Most of the warehouses are rented by plastic, electrical and textile manufacturers.

● An unconscious child and two women in their early twenties were dragged to safety by fire officers from a burning house at Batley, West Yorkshire, yesterday. The three were discharged from hospital after treatment. The fire was believed to have been started by a cigarette.

● Detectives are investigating a fire which damaged offices of the Scientology cult and a number of small shops in an arcade at Brighton, Sussex, yesterday.

● More than 550 guests and staff had to be moved out of Scarborough's biggest hotel early yesterday after fire broke out in a sixth-floor staff bedroom. The blaze, believed to have been started by a cigarette, caused only minor damage. Nobody was hurt.

Bangkok fire kills 12, page 6

Scottish Tories in drive for councils

By Kerry Gill

The Scottish Conservative Party is to launch its biggest local government election campaign in an attempt to capture control of more district councils.

District council elections in Scotland will be held this May and will be a crucial test of the party's strenuous attempts to increase its popularity north of the border.

Lord Goold, chairman of the Scottish Tories, said the party would field a record number of candidates and would contest every seat where other parties were fighting.

Later this month Lord Goold and Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, will summon all Tory district councillors and candidates to a meeting to thrash out campaign strategy.

Lord Goold said it was essential that party leaders should lay down firm guidelines on how the election would be fought.

The Tories will emphasize the much improved economic situation in Scotland and the fall in unemployment, and will seek to convince the public that the community charge, or poll tax, will be a way of forcing extravagant local authorities to become more accountable.

Lord Goold said he was convinced that the public were coming round to the Tories' views on increased power of parents in the schools, particularly in view of recent school closure announcements by Strathclyde Regional Council.

Although the districts do not have a say in education, the Tories believe that actions such as those of Strathclyde will influence voters in May.

The Tories control only four out of 53 district councils in Scotland, but hope to make considerable gains. Other districts being targeted include Perth and Kinross, Stirling, North-east Fife and East Angus. Lord Goold said they had high hopes of taking Edinburgh and Dundee district councils too.

The Conservatives, left with 10 parliamentary seats out of 72 in Scotland, are said to have about 25 per cent of popular support.

Lord Goold said he hoped a substantial number of Alliance supporters would defect to the Tories. He was also confident that many former Labour voters would vote Tory. He said it was time that many independents stood as Tories.

Correction

Our report (September 15) of a meeting during the Liberal conference said that the Campaign for Equal Citizenship had been denied a place on the platform after claims that paramilitary groups supported it. The Campaign and its leadership wish to make it clear that it is entirely non-sectarian and that it rejects all claims that it is linked with, or supported by, paramilitary groups.

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Hurd given report on Yardie gangs

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

A Scotland Yard intelligence team has identified several suspected members of the Yardies, the Jamaican-based criminal organization, living in Britain.

Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, who asked to be kept informed of police data on the group, has been given a report on the latest investigation.

A source said yesterday that two or three suspects had been identified by the police, who have appointed a special co-ordinator to handle investigations into the group. They are believed to have links with violent crime, including murder.

Senior Scotland Yard detectives denied reports yesterday that a key member of the Yardies had been traced. One report said the man was a black musician who was subject to a Jamaican extradition order, but

the Yard said there had been no requests from Jamaica in recent years for any extraditions.

So far, senior officers say, the Yardies have not become a major criminal threat in Britain but may be confused with the rise of ambitious black criminals moving up the underworld ladder.

The report was based on a conference held in the United States on the spread of the Yardies in the American criminal scene and impressions of what might happen in Britain.

Documents tell of early Iran tension

Britain's presence in the Persian Gulf was resented by Iran long before the Ayatollah Khomeini took power, according to Cabinet documents for 1957 now open in the public record office in London.

In the year after Suez, Mr Selwyn Lloyd, then Foreign Secretary, carried out an extensive review of British policy in the Gulf, and observers see the outcome as not greatly different from what is happening today.

Mr Lloyd asked for reports from British representatives in the Gulf and was told that Britain's presence was "an irritant" to many of the states in the area, particularly Iran.

Iran did not approve of what she regarded as outdated imperialism, but believed that British influence would eventually disappear from the region.

Iran hoped to secure some windfalls for herself as a result, including larger oil revenues and the dominant naval position in the Gulf.

The Foreign Secretary told the Cabinet that his Gulf policy would be based on a number of key points: Britain would seek to maintain a position by political rather than military means, which would mean an expansion of information and British Council work.

He would eschew any grand design for the Gulf and would maintain maximum flexibility.

Some British troops would be retained as an indication of British determination and ability to deter and repel aggression.

Britain would avoid interfering in the internal affairs of the Gulf states, but would seek to spread the idea that the Arabs alone could not protect themselves against Israel and that the West provided the only reliable guarantee of their independence.

New Year festivities

Revellers turn to violence

New Year festivities turned sour in many parts of the country as celebrations turned to drunken violence.

Provincial towns and cities bore the brunt, with a fatal stabbing in Kent, fighting and scuffles in Ipswich and Hereford and a pitched battle between gangs of youths in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

Police have launched a murder inquiry in Downham, Kent, where fighting broke out shortly after midnight among 12 men armed with knives at the Teazle public house.

Mr Francis Claydon, aged 22, from Southover, Downham, was dead on arrival in hospital. Mr Keith Coates, aged 22, and Mr David Woolley, both of Downham, were taken to hospital with serious abdominal injuries.

In High Wycombe, police with riot gear were called when shots were fired, a public house was held under siege and gangs fought pitched battles, smashed shop windows and looted a camera shop.

The trouble began at about 2am when 100 youths left the Multi-Racial Club in Pauls Row, High Wycombe.

A large crowd then gathered outside the Anchor public house, breaking windows and causing extensive damage. Youths from the club and skinheads from the public house are thought to have started the rioting.

In Trafalgar Square, the centre of London's celebrations, 139 people were arrested for offences, including grievous bodily harm, drunkenness and public disorder.

This was fewer than last year, when 169 arrests were made in similar size crowds of 50,000.

In Whitehall, central London, two youths both aged 17, were stabbed.

Greater Manchester was relatively quiet, police said, with 100 arrests.

Police with dogs spent an hour restoring order in Hereford after bottles and glasses were thrown at officers and revellers in the city centre. Thirty two people were arrested.

A crowd of 1,500 people gathered on the beach at Weymouth, Dorset; five police vehicles were damaged and 10 arrests made.

Lincoln, the scene of riots last year, was as quiet as an average Saturday night, police said.

New Year celebrations in Ipswich, Suffolk, came to an abrupt halt when 31 arrests were made after drunken revellers pelted police with beer glasses in the town square in the early hours of yesterday.

TV-am remains confident

By John Spicer, Employment Affairs Correspondent

TV-am executives say they are confident that they can keep broadcasting their programme in the new year without the 229 technicians who were locked out after a 24-hour strike.

Managers say that since the technicians took industrial action on November 23, other members of staff have begun to master jobs ranging from lighting and camerawork to running the autocue.

The morning show's presenter, Anne Diamond, is in Australia for the country's bicentennial celebrations and TV-am is hoping to provide live coverage from there all next week.

There are no plans to resume negotiations with members of the ACTT, who are still picketing the TV-am studios at Camden Lock in North London.

Mr Bruce Gyngell, TV-am chief executive, says he will not allow the technicians back until they give an undertaking to allow management to make decisions.

The dispute developed over a disagreement about the number of staff that were needed to film outside broadcasts for the station's planned Caring Christmas charity campaign.

After three days of rehearsals three weeks ago, TV-am put out a 30-minute live programme which has since developed into a 90-minute show. Journalists at the station have voted not to support the technicians and are working normally.

Secretaries have been called on to operate television cameras, as has Mr Paul Vickers, the company lawyer. Most staff are required to be at the studios by 4am and Mr Gyngell has been acting as the programme director.

Meanwhile, the ACTT pickets are still outside the building and they say they have drawn up a rota which will ensure they are there until 1989 if necessary.

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Doctors demoralized, patients at risk

NHS on path to terminal decline, says journal

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

The National Health Service is moving towards "terminal decline", characterized by exhausted and demoralized doctors and nurses, endangered patients and "filthy" hospitals, a leading article in the *British Medical Journal* says today.

In 1987, 3,500 hospital beds were closed because of lack of money, lack of nurses or other pressures, the article says. The result of reducing the average bed stay to save money is that patients are "in and out so fast that no one has time to talk to them. The margins are now so narrow that patients are put in danger".

The article, by Dr Tony Smith, deputy editor of the *BMJ*, says the Government's emergency injection of £100 million into the health service is "nothing like large enough" to cope with budget deficits.

Three-quarters of the 200 NHS health districts expect to be overspent in the next year, which will mean more bed closures.

Health managers seem unsympathetic and incompetent, he says. "Virtually every hospital is dirty and many are filthy; many are unpainted, unrepaired and unmaintained. Privatization may have saved money, but it has often made standards worse."

Dr Smith says that Britain spends less on health care than other European countries. As a proportion of the gross national product, Britain spends 6 per cent, Switzerland 7.4 per cent, France and The Netherlands 8.5 per cent, and Germany 9.5 per cent. Expressed as dollars per person each year, the expenditure by the UK is 493, The Netherlands 828, France 853, Germany 1,000, and Switzerland 1,111, he says.

"As the first priority we believe the Government should accept that the NHS is now in a serious short-term financial crisis, and that solving that crisis is more important than cutting two pence off the standard rate of income tax (cost £2,500 million).



Sir Douglas Black: Labour politicians faulted

"Health authorities should be given revised, realistic budgets for the coming year, and the Government should undertake to fund in their entirety the pay awards to be made to doctors and nurses in April.

"These two measures could give a breathing space of a year for a health commission to come up with proposals that will retain a comprehensive health service, while finding resources of funding that will bring spending on health in Britain into line with that in the rest of northern Europe."

In a separate article in the same issue, Sir Douglas Black, former president of the Royal College of Physicians, says the health service has been damaged by "doctrinaire socialism" in the past and may now be threatened by "monetarist and managerial dogma".

Sir Douglas, one of Britain's most respected medical figures, accused some Labour politicians of a "vendetta" against private practice.

"Labour damage to the NHS does not arise from a lack of sympathy for the principles of the NHS, but from doctrinaire rigidity in refusing to modify any jot or tittle of these principles in applying them to the real world.

"When Barbara Castle was secretary of state, she did not openly condone the disgraceful action of some individual members of the health service union in refusing to attend to the needs of patients in the private wing of Charing Cross Hospital.

"But she did in the 1976 legislation setting up the Health Service Board lay the foundation for the remarkable, and in my view damaging, expansion of the private sector well before the Thatcher era.

"In contrast to Barbara Castle, who encouraged the growth of the private hospitals only by misadventure, the Thatcher government, while maintaining the rhetoric of public support for the NHS, has given verbal and practical encouragement to the private sector.

"The important question is not whether greater privatization is in tune with government policy, but rather whether it is good for the health of the nation.

"If there are shortcomings in the NHS, the fairest and most economical course is to correct them — not to widen a bypass into a private sector which does not necessarily provide better care.

"I believe it will be to the advantage of the NHS, and through that, of health care, when growth of the private sector is no longer encouraged, and the mystique of business management in the NHS can be studied only as an interesting historical aberration", he said.

"The future depends on a clear recognition that health services, including the NHS and a small private sector, are not for the welfare and aggrandizement of those who work in them.

"Health services are first and foremost for the good of patients — even more perhaps than for the general public health — and that is the touchstone by which they must be judged."

Cup of war-time cheer



It is March 1943, and the Queen of the day visits Woking to test one of the nation's most potent 'secret weapons' of the Second World War ...the Naafi cuppa.

The moment was captured in this photograph, which has only just been uncovered with the clearing of a Naafi office. "It is a charming photograph and a reminder of the days of 'a cup of tea and a wad' which have gone forever", a Naafi spokesman said yesterday.

The royal cup of tea was one of tens of millions of wartime brews served by the Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes, which yesterday celebrated its sixth-seventh anniversary.

It is doubtful whether the Queen Mother would now find much in common between present Naafis, some of which rival West End discos, and the institutes' Surrey training headquarters of 45 years ago where many of the 100,000-plus people who worked for Naafi then learnt their trade.

The Naafi was established in 1921 when the Royal Navy and the RAF combined with the Expeditionary Force's Canteens service which had been formed during the 1914-18 war.

Today it has a staff of 11,000 and an annual turnover above £370 million.

Clubs and discos have replaced the canteens; Naafi shops sell everything for British Servicemen and their families from toothpaste to washing machines.

Some things remain the same, though. The organization still aims to serve British forces wherever they may be. The Naafi still operates in Britain and Germany, plus the Falklands, Singapore, Belize, Hong Kong, Gibraltar and Cyprus.

New year invitation to Prince's girl friend

Miss Georgia May is spending the new year holiday with the Royal Family at Sandringham, Norfolk, at the invitation of Prince Edward.

The first few days of the Royal Family's annual six-week stay at Sandringham have traditionally been restricted to the immediate family.

Miss May, aged 22, joined Prince Edward and other members of the Royal Family for lunch at the Queen's shooting lodge yesterday, riding in the Queen Mother's car from Sandringham House.

Her father, Mr George May, a boat company executive, has said previously: "I wouldn't want my daughter marrying into the Royal Family. The Royal Family don't have any privacy at all. It's not a life I would want her to lead."

Earlier, heavy rain spoilt the Royal Family's first pheasant shoot of the season, with few birds shot. Miss May will watch Prince Edward in action on another pheasant shoot at the Sandringham estate today.

£2.4m charge

Alan Constable, a tax consultant, of Silwood Place, Brighton, East Sussex, who is charged with conspiracy to obtain £2.4 million from Barclays Bank with a counterfeit banker's draft, was remanded in custody for a week at Marylebone Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday.

Death plunge

The US Air Force was yesterday investigating the death of First Class Airman James Sulz, aged 20, of the 48th Company Repair Squadron at Lakenheath, Suffolk, who died in a 60 ft fall from cliffs at Hunstanton, Norfolk. He was believed to have been drinking with another airman before climbing over a clifftop safety fence.

Dog dilemma

The Kennel Club has refused to allow Mark Beardshall, the Derbyshire county cricketer, to register his pedigree boxer dog under the name "Botham, Somerset Six Hit". It will be known instead as "Fearless Viking Prince".

Business class

A £360,000 grant from the Sainsbury trust will pay for an industrial design course at the seven schools in the King Edward Foundation, Birmingham, and allow teachers to gain business world experience via fellowships.

Skimmed off

Thieves filled a milk tanker with 2,000 gallons of diesel before stealing it from Latton Creamery in Cirencester, Gloucestershire, yesterday.

Doleful plea

The Job Centre in Sidmouth, Devon, is displaying a sign saying: "This office will be closed until further notice due to staff shortages".

Teenage law course on offer

By Our Education Correspondent

A course in citizenship designed by lawyers for secondary school pupils has received support from Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science.

The minister is to encourage schools to make room for it in the proposed national curriculum.

Just before Christmas, Mr Baker enthusiastically received a group of lawyers who, with the co-operation of 50 schools, had developed a full course in citizenship for pupils aged from 14 to 16.

The course is soon to be published and will, Mr Andrew Phillips, a City solicitor and one of the group says, provide teachers with materials in an otherwise thinly provided area.

"Mr Baker obviously believes that this initiative is wholly compatible with the new curriculum".

Up to 30 per cent of school time is, under the Education Reform Bill, allowed for subjects which are not included in the foundation curriculum. The "Law in Education" project, which has received no government funding, would have to fight for time with up to a dozen other subjects.

The course could have "a powerful indirect effect" on violent and unruly youngsters, Mr Phillips said. "I have seen young people transformed simply after having the values of society explained to them."

Fight against Aids

Condom scheme for schools

By Sarah Thompson, Education Reporter

Somerset councillors are to decide next week whether to become the first county council to recommend the installation of condom machines in secondary schools as part of its anti-Aids campaign.

The county council's solicitor, Mr John Whitcutt, has said there would be no legal objection to the plan, basing his view on the defeat of Mrs Victoria Gillick in her High Court action over prescription of the contraceptive pill to under 16s.

However, Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, made it clear recently when launching his department's Aids video film for schools that children "must learn that the best lifestyle is to refrain from sexual activity until as adults they establish a stable, loving and mutually faithful relationship".

Mrs Penny Phillips, Somerset County Council Conservative group chairman, said installing condom dispensers "would give young adolescents the all-clear on sex and encourage those who do not know what it is all about to go ahead".

The issue is to be debated next Thursday by Somerset's education committee, whose chairman, Mrs Pauline Moxon (Liberal Alliance), said yesterday: "The council would at the most be making a recommendation to schools. All we are discussing at the moment is whether or not we should have a policy."

She said that any policy formed would not apply to middle schools for nine to 13-year-olds.

Somerset is expected to recommend the installation of condom dispensers in youth clubs and colleges. Mrs Moxon said: "I cannot see us adopting a policy regarding schools in the near future. My own feeling is: keep the machines out of schools, certainly for now; but I have not thought it through yet."

Tory plea on schools Bill

Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, has been asked by a group of county council Conservatives to change the timetable of his Education Reform Bill in order to keep out non-Tory governors from shire schools.

Mr Baker is understood to be considering an appeal from Mrs Penny Phillips, leader of the Conservative group on the Alliance-controlled Somerset County Council, to delay the introduction of the Bill and the election of local authority representatives on school governoring bodies so that they fall after shire elections in May next year.

Mr Paddy Ashdown, Liberal MP for Yeovil, said yesterday that the suggestion "comprises as naked a piece of manipulation of legislation to suit party political ends as I personally have ever had knowledge of".

Under the legislation, school governors elected next September to represent the local authority will hold office for four years, although council power may change hands in local elections in that time.

Mrs Phillips, in a letter to Mr Baker last month, said: "In Somerset, if the present Alliance administration were to elect governors in 1988, we could well be faced by members of school governing bodies who would be strongly anti-national government policy at a time when governors will hold greatly increased powers.

"We can visualize intransigence at each step of introduction of central government reforms if the proposed timing is endorsed. Please amend to September 1989."

Mrs Phillips said yesterday that her request was "not political".

She said: "It is very impractical for local education authority governors not to have a term of office coterminous with that of the local education authority".

Church leaders 'ignore child abuse by clergy'

Child abuse campaigners yesterday accused church leaders of ignoring the problem of paedophiles in the clergy.

Mrs Diane Core, founder of Childwatch, the help line for abuse victims, said senior church officers were using the issue of homosexuality as a smokescreen to avoid dealing with the growing problem of child abuse and the clergy.

Mrs Core said: "Over the last two years we have dealt with various cases where children have been sexually abused and we expected the General Synod to take some action.

"In cases where there is evidence that a clergyman is a paedophile, all the church has done is move them to another parish. There is a lot of bad feeling amongst church people about the lack of action on abuse".

Mr John Miles, a spokesman for the Church of England, said: "If there are specific allegations against a clergyman then they should be referred to the bishop of the diocese.

"He would normally have the clergyman into his home and discuss the allegations. But what happens would depend on the results of the conversation and it would be up to the bishop to decide what to do."

Mr Miles said: "The House of Bishops makes up its own mind on issues like this but there are provisions in canon law for bishops to take whatever action they believe is right in cases concerning sexual morality".

Drug abuse

Worry as amphetamine seizures rise

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Amphetamines have become the most favoured substance after cannabis among drug abusers in Britain.

Police seizures of amphetamines, known as "the young man's cocaine", reached record proportions in 1987 as the street market expanded.

By last autumn, police had seized 93 kg of amphetamine sulphate compared with a total haul of 92kg of the drug by both police and Customs officers in 1986.

The discovery of 13 illicit laboratories, compared with 11 the year before, went to confirm police suspicions that Britain has become a manufacturing country for the drug rather than part of the distribution network stretching from the Continent.

Det Chief Inspector Richard Burcham, of the National Drugs Intelligence Unit, said: "We are now the source country for amphetamines and there is no doubt that the bulk is staying here, although some is being exported.

"The main attraction is that amphetamines are the poor man's, the young man's cocaine."

Cannabis remains the single largest drug of abuse in Britain but amphetamines have overtaken drugs such as heroin and cocaine, which attract much more publicity.

A number of police forces have directed drugs squads to concentrate on amphetamines rather than cannabis because the drug is known to be more dangerous medically.

Amphetamines, stimulants once widely prescribed for obesity and depression, went into decline among abusers in the 1960s, but started to re-emerge in the late 1970s with use at parties, clubs and discotheques.

The drugs produce feelings of well-being, exhilaration or energy but also lead to psychosis, physical effects and depression.

Mr Burcham said the amount of the illegal abuse was unknown. The drug treatment system in Britain did not usually cater for the drug and there were no figures to quantify usage.

A BBC survey of 2,000 drug takers showed that 80 per cent had used amphetamines and 30 per cent said those were their preferred drug.

Until recently the drug was taken mainly by snorting, but increasingly it is being used intravenously.

The present price is about £12 a gram compared with £70 or £80 a gram for cocaine.

Mr Burcham said there was evidence that teenagers could be turning from solvent abuse to amphetamines.

Much of the drug is sold in powder form from illicit laboratories often set up by professional criminals.

Safety alert on salesmen

Police in Hampshire have warned the public to beware of "cowboy" security companies that use high-pressure marketing techniques to sell alarms.

The warning came after a team of salesmen asked home owners to complete forms detailing periods of absence from their homes. The systems they were marketing did not conform to British standards

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Dublin toasts more than 1,000 years of history

By John Cooney

Dublin, the Irish Republic's capital city, began to celebrate its 1,000th birthday yesterday, almost 150 years behind the actual anniversary date of its founding by the Vikings.

As tens of thousands packed the streets of the capital to bring in the new year, nobody appeared too bothered about the wrong date.

The millennium celebrations aim to revive the appearance and morale of Dublin's once fair city, which in recent years has fallen victim to urban sprawl, pollution, traffic congestion, vandalism and drugs.

The rallying cry chosen to inspire the citizens of Dublin is a Millennium Suite, which is an updated version of the traditional song about Molly Malone, pushing her wheelbarrow through the streets broad and narrow, and crying "cockles and mussels alive, alive-oh".

Dublin's greatest literary son, James Joyce, will feature prominently in the celebrations. Bloomsday on *June 16 will witness city-wide festivity* beyond even the imagination of the ubiquitous Leopold Bloom of *Ulysses* fame.

Appropriately, in view of Dublin's well-established connections with the horse world, the world's richest race for two-year-olds will be staged on October 1, the Cartier Million Millennium Race.

Other highlights will include exhibitions paying tribute to the Viking founders of Dubh Linn, meaning The Black Pool. The Vikings, who began settling there in 841, had established firm control over the native Celts by 873 and maintained their supremacy until 1169.

July will see the return of Viking ships as part of a sail-in involving 500 yachts in the Dublin Bay Millennium Festival.

Overall, the organizers hope to attract an extra 250,000 tourists to Dublin during 1988. Those will include 500 American golfers who will play against 500 Irish golfers at 10 courses.

There will be an influx of celebrities to Dublin for the Eurovision Song Contest, which will be hosted by RTE, the Irish national broadcasting station.

In spite of the high price of alcohol — a pint of lager can cost £1.50 and a pint of Guinness £1.40 — public houses stand to gain most from the millennium binge.

As a south side Dubliner remarked: "Sure, this year is only a trial run for the second millennium 853 years from now."

هكذا من الأصل

Union vows to fight to resist ferry captain's dismissal

By David Sapsted

Mr Sam McCluskie, leader of the National Union of Seamen, has warned sailors round the world about the dangers of cutting back on safety at sea for profit.

Mr McCluskie says in his new year message that the union will resist any government policies which insist that British seamen compete internationally with fleets that are dodging safety rules and are receiving state aid.

He said, recalling the Herald of Free Enterprise disaster: "We must never lower our guard against the possibility of disasters at sea".

The British merchant fleet was down to 400 ships. He could see a situation, sooner rather than later, when the British public would be travelling on ferries under flags of convenience with crews of Third World nationals.

The merchant officers' union is determined to resist any management attempts to dismiss Captain David Lewry, the former master of the Herald of Free Enterprise.

A Numast spokesman said yesterday: "It is quite obvious that the company now wants to get rid of Captain Lewry. He is equally determined that he wants to sail again.

"We shall be contesting any move to dismiss him because we believe the faults for the disaster rest above him."

P & O European Ferries (Townsend Thoresen's new owner) has asked Captain Lewry and officials of Numast to attend a meeting in Dover this month "to discuss the future" of the ferry's master.

He has been suspended on full pay or has taken sick leave since the loss of 193 lives in the Zeebrugge disaster.

Lawyers for Captain Lewry are still considering an appeal to the House of Lords over the one-year suspension of his certificate of competency imposed by the official ferry inquiry. Last month he lost an appeal in the High Court.

Numast said: "It is quite wrong for the company to try to pick out individuals when, as the official inquiry pointed out, the whole system was at fault. There is no way Captain Lewry could have foreseen the shortcomings of that system."

A disciplinary hearing was suspended by the company pending the appeal to the High Court and it is unlikely to be reconvened until a decision is made on whether to appeal to the Lords.

However, P & O is known to be keen to resolve the one outstanding internal matter arising out of the catastrophe as quickly as possible.

Previous hearings have resulted in Mr Leslie Sabel, the ferry's chief officer who was responsible for overseeing closure of the bow doors, being dismissed. The assistant boatswain, Mr Marc Stanley, who was asleep when he should have been operating the doors, left the company on medical grounds and all the directors on the Townsend Car Ferries board on March 6 have since resigned or been eased out.

Numast is determined to fight for Captain Lewry because it believes wider issues regarding the responsibilities of masters are involved.

The union said: "We are currently in discussion with P & O following their proposals on crew ratios which we believe are ultimately aimed at reducing the manning levels. The company could decide on the levels it wants but is wrong to expect the captain to carry the can if, as a result, something goes wrong."

Although the official inquiry into the disaster found Captain Lewry, Mr Sabel and Mr Stanley most immediately responsible, it severely criticized Townsend Thoresen's management for being "infected with the disease of sloppiness" at all levels.

Britain's biggest mass inquest found that 186 of those who died in the Herald had been unlawfully killed. After the verdict, the Director of Public Prosecutions ordered Kent police to hold a special investigation into the disaster.

That investigation is still in its early stages. It is likely to concentrate on the possibility of bringing corporate manslaughter charges.

Survivors and bereaved families have made it clear that they want to see action taken against P & O rather than against individuals, and the Herald Families' Association has not yet ruled out the possibility of a private prosecution against the company.

At the same time, the official inquiry in Belgium into the disaster, headed by Judge Arthur d'Hoest, is believed to be awaiting the decision of the DPP before taking any action.

Council's officer for go-karts



Mr Bernard Constantine, Reading Council's £8,000-a-year go-kart officer, takes the wheel of one of six karts provided by the council for community sports instruction.

Children under 11 and young adults are enjoying sessions at Palmer Park cycling track in Reading and at their own schools and clubs, courtesy of the council's mobile unit.

The creation of Mr Constantine's post last September angered many Conservative members of the Labour-led council.

Mr Ron Jewitt said: "It's typical of the empire-building going on under Labour in Reading".

(Photograph: Peter Trievnor)

Southwark's rates

Sanctions could bring chaos

By David Walker, Public Administration Correspondent

Government ministers and officials fear that moves by the district auditor to bring councillors in the south London borough of Southwark to book for failing in their financial duty will backfire.

The Department of the Environment is worried that if the auditor wins his case against councillors for delaying making a rate in 1985 and the courts disqualify them from office, it could plunge Southwark into a period of turmoil when important policy changes need to be made in education, housing and finance, through the introduction of the poll tax.

Among the councillors facing disqualification would be the moderate Labour leader, Miss Anne Matthews, who has recently fought a battle against "workerist" elements in the Labour Party.

Council officials would be unable to take political decisions needed if the new policies were to be implemented in a borough which includes areas singled out for attention as part of the Government's inner cities strategy.

Ministers initially welcomed the auditor's moves as a way of reminding the public of the excesses of Labour councillors in London, but are now worried that the auditor for the metropolitan area, Mr Brian Skinner, has been too assidnous and will cause them political embarrassment.

Pilchards warning after man dies

By Kerry Gill

An investigation was begun yesterday after a man aged 66 died in a Scottish hospital after eating a tin of pilchards.

Tayside police warned shopkeepers to remove suspect tins from shelves and advised the public not to eat the brand, Glenryck Pacific Pilchards, until investigations are complete.

The man, who was not named, was taken to Perth Royal Infirmary after complaining of severe stomach pains on Thursday afternoon.

The Scottish Home and Health Department is conducting an investigation through the communicable diseases unit at Ruchill Hospital, Glasgow.

The Scottish Office said a post-mortem examination did not confirm that the cause of death was botulism, although it had not been ruled out.

It is believed that the dead man bought the pilchards six months ago.

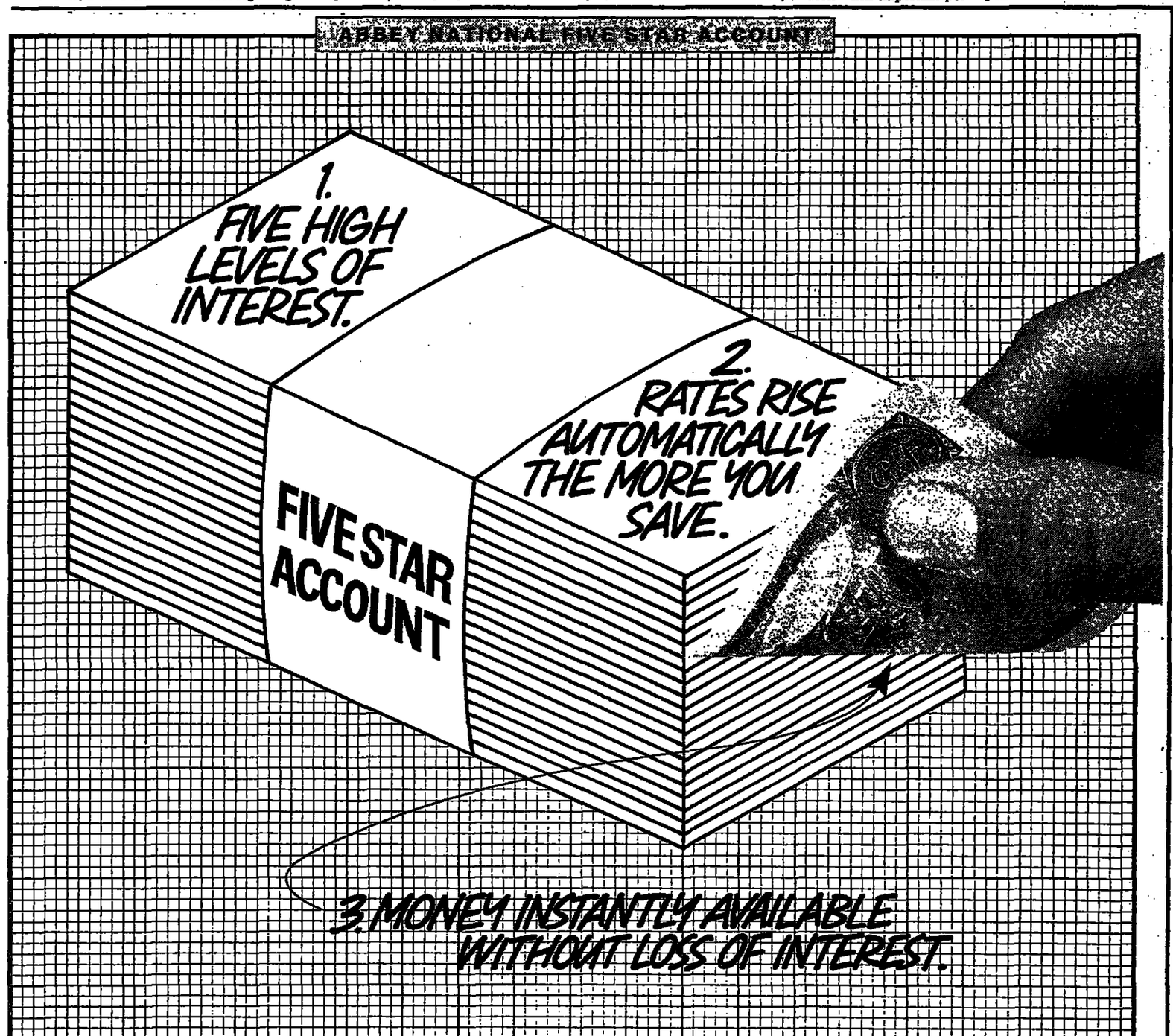
Glenryck (UK) Ltd, of Henley-on-Thames, who import the pilchards from Chile, said some 3,000 cans from the production run which contained the tin bought by the pensioner had been eaten with no ill effects.

The company said the pilchards underwent strict screening before leaving Chile.

The Department of Health in London said: "We are in close touch with the authorities in Scotland and tests on the remainder of the contents of the can are in progress. The results will not be known for a few days.

"It would be prudent for the public not to consume this brand of pilchards until the results of the tests are known."

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FS26

Fungus food gives new hope on diets

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Anyone making serious dietary resolutions for the new year might consider Quorn.

The substance is mycoprotein, described as the first truly new food, and it bears the name of Britain's best-known hunt for no apparent reason.

In an age of groaning surpluses, it might be thought that the last thing needed would be new comestibles. However the age is also health-conscious, and Quorn is said to be rich in protein and dietary fibre, low in calories and free of animal fats and cholesterol.

It is derived from a microscopic fungus, *fusarium graminearum*, which is related to the mushroom family. When grown in glucose made from hydrolized wheat starch, it matures within a few days.

It was originally discovered some 20 years ago by a research team from Ranks Hovis McDougall, whose chairman, Lord Rank, took a particular interest in the project. At that time there were fears of a worldwide shortage of proteins, and the intention was to dry and powder the fungus, like soya or milk, as a high-protein food additive.

When RHM went into production with ICI, and formed a subsidiary company, Marlow Foods, the fibrous meat-like texture was judged appealing enough to be sold as a food in its own right. Having only a slight natural taste of its own, it could easily be flavoured with meat, chicken or fish.

The new food was cleared for human consumption by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in 1984.

The first Quorn product, a savoury meat pie, went on sale in 1985, and the range has since been extended to include other pies which, while not suitable for strict vegetarians, have proved popular with people seeking to reduce their consumption of animal fats.

Mr Peter Osborne, sales and marketing manager of Marlow Foods, says that Quorn is also suitable for patés, terrines, quiches and casseroles. A Quorn casserole has recently been introduced in British Home Stores restaurants. For the time being its use will be restricted to food manufacturers, but it may eventually be sold as an ingredient for home cooking.

● Two hundred acres scattered between Jersey and the Shetlands, are being used to rear snails for gourmet tables.

It is estimated that the delicacy can earn Britain £30 million in exports each year.

The founding father and president of the British Snail Farmers' Association, whose 40 or so members like to refer to themselves as *heliciculteurs*, is a Frenchman, M Jacques Aubrée.

The association was established in 1985

Demand in France far exceeds supply, and the United States imports some 300 million dollars (about £166 million) worth a year.

Europe alone has about 400 indigenous species of snails. Most, however, are inedible, and the only one the association deems worthy of cultivation is the delectable *Helix Aspersa (Major)*.

Allegedly inferior intruders, notably the *Achatina* species from Taiwan, are outlawed in France.

Conservation council predicts a tough year

The Council for the Protection of Rural England intends sharpening its conservation campaign this year.

"Over the past year the Government has been devising all kinds of new schemes for the countryside", Mr David Putman, president of the council, said yesterday.

"All are expected to be introduced this year and all carry the spectre of major countryside threats. There will be tough conservation battles in the year ahead.

"The CPRE will continue to demand that the legitimate needs of our environment are not discarded in favour of short-term political and economic expedience."

Conservation issues include the future of agricultural land, county structure plans, opencast coal mining, forestry, new power stations and the Lyndhurst bypass in the New Forest, Hampshire.

Government proposals to reduce farm surpluses by taking land out of production "seem likely not only to fail to reduce surpluses in the long term but also to result in the further deterioration of well-loved landscapes", Mr Putman said.

The Government planned to discard county structure plans only 20 years after their inception. Strategic planning to decide on the general location and scale of development would largely disappear as planning powers would be handed over to 333 district councils.

The Government was likely to press for more opencast mining while "providing only bland and ineffective assurances on how environmental conflicts can be resolved".

He said there could be a massive rise in the rate of potentially damaging coniferous afforestation during the year, and the Central Electricity Generating Board, which wants 10 new power stations in the next decade, was likely to provoke huge conflicts.

Mr Putman added that the proposed Lyndhurst bypass was the most serious threat the New Forest had faced for more than 100 years. The private Bill promoted by Hampshire County Council, to be debated in the Commons early in the year, created "a dangerous precedent by allowing developers to sidestep inconvenient obstacles like public inquiries", he said.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Israel rejects US plan for border

Jerusalem (Reuter) — Israeli leaders have rejected an American proposal to solve the Taba border dispute by giving Egypt sovereignty over the Red Sea beach-front and Israel access to it, Israeli government officials said yesterday.

A panel of international arbiters is due later this year to judge the claims of Israel and Egypt to the area on the eastern coast of Sinai. US officials proposed a negotiated compromise rather than an imposed ruling as less likely to strain relations between the countries. Israel has ruled the 250-acre strip of sand at Taba on the Red Sea since it captured Sinai from Egypt in the 1967 Middle East War. It has returned the rest of the peninsula to Egypt.

Mr Abraham Sofaer, a legal adviser at the US State Department, put the compromise proposal to both sides during a visit to the region last month. But Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, Mr Shimon Peres, the Foreign Minister, and Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Defence Minister, decided to reject the plan, Israeli aides said yesterday.

Farewell message

Los Angeles — While millions watched, Mr Jack Brian, a British scientist who has worked in the US for 30 years, yesterday said farewell to his late wife with a message in the California sky (Ivor Davis writes).

Five small planes, hired at a cost of £375 by Mr Brian and his daughter Jacqui, spelled out "Goodbye Beryl" over Pasadena's annual Rose Bowl parade, which attracts some 2.5 million spectators, with millions more watching it live on television. The message, in white smoke five miles high and a quarter of a mile wide, was a final tribute to Mrs Brian, who died in October of breast cancer, aged 61.

Sackings in Bogotá

Bogotá (AP) — The warden and lawyer who freed a Colombian billionaire accused of running a ring that supplies 80 per cent of US cocaine have been dismissed and will face criminal charges, according to President Barco.

He said that the release of Jorge Luís Ochoa Vázquez, who walked out the front door of Bogotá's La Picota prison on Wednesday arm in arm with the warden, Señor Alvaro Camacho, after a writ of habeas corpus, was in "open defiance of clear instructions from superiors". The United States, which is battling to extradite Ochoa to face drugs charges, was enraged by his release.

Haiti talks postponed

Port of Spain, Trinidad (AFP) — A meeting of Caribbean leaders called to discuss the Haiti crisis scheduled to take place in Barbados on Monday has been postponed to Wednesday to allow the prime ministers of Jamaica and St Vincent and the Grenadines to attend, Mr John Compton, Prime Minister of St Lucia and chairman of the Carribean Community, said here yesterday.

The group was set to discuss a common plan after the November 29 Haiti election was called off because of violence. Voting now takes place on January 17.

Poland in the clear

BBC radio was heard on short-wave loud and clear throughout Eastern Europe yesterday as the Soviet Union stopped jamming broadcasts to Poland for the first time since the imposition of martial law there in 1981. It is now almost a year since the Soviet Union lifted jamming of the BBC's Russian service, and the service to Poland was the last BBC programme in Europe affected in this way.

Penalty for greed

Moscow (Reuter) — The former director of the administration responsible for all Moscow's state restaurants, Mr V. Busarev, has been jailed for corruption, the Moscow Communist Party daily *Moskovskaya Pravda* said yesterday. The paper said Moscow city court had sentenced him to "a long term of imprisonment" after he had amassed some 4,000 roubles (£4,000) in bribes.

Pasternak Prize plea



Moscow — Yevgeny Yevtushenko, the maverick poet who supports the Gorbachov reform programme, has suggested that the 1958 Nobel Literature Prize be restored posthumously to Boris Pasternak, left, author of *Dr Zhivago*, which has recently returned to official favour (Christopher Walker writes). Tass said that the poet had written an article for the Soviet weekly *New Times* urging clarification for Pasternak's status.

Thatcher intervenes in defector's battle for son

By Andrew McEwen
Diplomatic Correspondent

Mrs Thatcher has sent a message of hope to a former Russian journalist who defected to Britain 21 years ago and has been trying since to persuade the authorities in the Soviet Union to allow his son to join him.

Mr Leonid Finkelstein, aged 63, was losing hope that an exit visa would ever be granted to his son, Mr Anatoli Shnstov, aged 42, a Moscow car park attendant. After 15 applications had been turned down, it seemed clear that Anatoli was being punished for his father's defection.

But a letter from Mrs Thatcher has provided the first glimmer of light. In it, she says that his name was among nine cases of divided families which Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, raised with his Soviet counterpart, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, in March, during the Prime Minister's visit to Moscow.

Seven of these were resolved before Mr Mikhail Gorbachov and Mr Shevardnadze met Mrs Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey at RAF Brize Norton on December 7.

The Prime Minister confirms that the case of Mr Finkelstein's son was raised again by Sir Geoffrey, and comments: "I very much hope that this will lead to progress."

The other outstanding case on Mrs Thatcher's list is that of Mrs Rima Sosna, a widow living in Leningrad, as *The Times* reported on December 18. The link between the two is that the Soviet authorities have said that both had had access to state secrets.





Mr Leonid Finkelstein, left, hopes Mrs Thatcher's letter will help his son, Mr Anatoli Shnstov, right, to join him.

But Mr Finkelstein said yesterday that his son had been an ordinary seaman in the Soviet Navy during his national service, which ended 20 years ago, and since then he had held only menial jobs. No question of secrets was raised until his son made his fifteenth application in October.

"He is not a dissident and has always tried to obey the law. His only wish is to leave," he said. "The real reason is me. Soviet policy is not to encourage defections, by not allowing relatives of defectors to leave."

His problems began in 1947 when he uttered what he now calls "a reckless phrase". He said: "I complained that anti-semitism seemed to be raising its head inside the Soviet Union."

Mr Finkelstein was sentenced to seven years in prison but released after five and a half. "I was fully rehabilitated and they said I was not only innocent but had never been tried. From that day I was determined to leave the country, but the opportunity did not present itself for 13 years."

He obtained work as a science journalist, and eventually got permission to visit Britain in 1966. His application for asylum was granted within 24 hours by Mr Roy Jenkins, then Home Secretary.

Both Mr Finkelstein and his son are Jewish, though Anatoli's mother, Irina, is not.

Anniversary fails to rally the Palestinians

Israel uses a velvet glove to foil protest on 'Fatah Day'

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

With a massive security clampdown throughout the occupied territories yesterday, Palestinians showed little enthusiasm for demonstrating to mark the anniversary of the founding of al-Fatah, the main wing of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The quietness was undoubtedly due to the security measures, although there are signs that "Fatah Day" no longer is as important as it used to be to the young people in the camps.

Only in Balata camp, near Nablus, was there any sizeable disturbance by PLO youths, and there the Army moved in swiftly, broke it up and imposed a curfew.

Later troops used teargas and rubber bullets to break up a disturbance in Nablus itself, when Palestinians tried to set up a road block. A curfew was imposed briefly at Nuseirat camp in the Gaza Strip. Another stone-throwing incident occured at al-Amara camp near Ramallah north of Jerusalem. Elsewhere there were a few minor incidents, but generally all was quiet in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Many shops were shut but this is normal on Friday, the main Muslim holy day, so it was impossible to say whether a commercial strike was in operation. However, many shops owned by Christian Arabs in Bethlehem had their shutters up, indicating that a strike had been organized.

The overall quietness was in part due to the fact that the security operation was handled with a great deal more tact and delicacy than in the recent past. Troops, despite their numbers, were not overevident, with many posted out of sight on rooftops, ready for action without being provocatively on patrol.

The scale of the deployment was nevertheless obvious from the fact that an élite parachute regiment had been brought in for policing work in Deheisheh, the rebellious camp near Bethlehem. Only in extraordinary circumstances are paratroopers used in this way.

Beirut (Reuter) — Pro-Iranian Muslim guerrillas said they killed eight soldiers in a dawn attack on a post manned by Israeli troops and Christian militia in south Lebanon yesterday. The Iranian-financed Islamic Resistance said that its men had waged a 40-minute battle at Dhairaia Israel's self-declared security zone.



A Palestinian woman pulling her son from an Israeli soldier who arrested him for rock throwing at the al-Amari refugee camp near Ramallah on the West Bank. But in the main the new year passed quietly in the occupied territories.

Apart from the large-scale deployment, the Israeli Army had been busy for days talking to leading Palestinians, asking them to help to restore order and to stop the organization of demonstrations. There was also a fresh wave of arrests of suspected militants, with Palestinian sources claiming that 150 had been rounded up in the four days before the anniversary.

These are in addition to the 1,077 eventually arrested after the disturbances. The security forces believe the fact that so many militants are under lock and key has been an important factor in calming the atmosphere

Only about a third of the usual 3,000-strong congregation turned up to hear Friday prayers at the al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem's Old City. A tour round some camps showed they were quiet.

The failure of "Fatah Day" to turn into a rallying point for fresh disturbances, despite the distribution of a leaflet by the PLO calling for acts of disorder, suggests that the organization is not the driving force behind what has been going on recently.

This spells more trouble for the security forces since it means that disturbances are likely to be less predictable, necessitating long-term, large-scale deployment of troops to ensure quiet.

● **TEL AVIV:** Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, said yesterday Israel would not bow to American pressure to curb its use of force in occupied areas but insisted this would not harm Israel's relations with its closest ally (Reuter reports).

"We have become accustomed over the years not to listen to pressures, to interference, to protests against one Israeli action or another."

● **CAIRO:** Egyptian riot police beat hundreds of Muslim fundamentalist demonstrators with batons and arrested 22 yesterday in breaking up a Cairo protest in support of Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip (Reuter reports).

Ershad sets poll date amid opposition threats of boycott

From Ahmed Fazl
Dhaka

President Ershad of Bangladesh yesterday called a general election for February 28 amid renewed threats by the main opposition groups to boycott the poll unless the Government steps down first.

The National Election Commission said nomination papers for a poll to elect a 300-member parliament would be accepted on January 20.

The announcement was made a day after a warning by Mr Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, the Prime Minister: "The opposition is forcing the President inexorably towards an extra-constitutional path by its negative politics."

The main opposition groups campaigning for the Government's dismissal immediately called protest rallies for tomorrow in Dhaka. A turn-out of tens of thousands of opposition supporters is predicted.

Sheikha Hasina Wazed, head of the Awami League which dominates one of the opposition alliances, said she would not accept the poll because she feared ballot-rigging.

Her alliance controlled 100 seats in the last Parliament, which was dominated by the ruling Jatiyo Party with 220 members.

"I'm not going to accept another vote fraud," she said.

Begum Khaleda Zia, chairman of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, also threatened to boycott the poll.

This would be the fourth election in 13 years for more than 49 million voters. The three previous parliaments were all prematurely dissolved.

President Ershad imposed a state of emergency and dissolved Parliament on December 6 as a united campaign aimed at forcing his resignation led to widespread street violence and strikes.

The President said yesterday, however, that he would allow no repeat of the agitation, which claimed at least a dozen lives. He appealed to the opposition to withdraw the boycott.

"The only way my Government can be removed is through a defeat at the poll," he said.

President Ershad took over power in a coup in 1982 and later allowed civilian rule.

Last month the Government released more than 40 leading political figures and more than 500 activists. About 4,500 were detained at the height of the campaign.

The Chief Election Commissioner, Justice A.T.M. Masud, said the Commission hoped all political parties and people would take part in the elections to help choose a truly representative parliament.

"The Commission also expects the executive authorities will maintain neutrality to ensure free and fair elections," he added.

Conflict in the Gulf

Iraqis claim two more hits on tankers

Manama, Bahrain (AP) — After the most damaging 12 months in the seven-year Gulf War, Iraq said yesterday that its warplanes had attacked two ships off Iran.

President Khamenei of Iran repeated threats to seal off the Gulf, an important world oil route, if the United Nations imposed a naval blockade on his country in an effort to end the war with Baghdad.

The official Iraqi News Agency reported that jets made their first shipping raid of the new year at 7am London time, 12 hours after a similar raid. "Accurate and effective hits" were reported against "two big naval targets", the term for oil tankers trading with Iran.

One communiqué said that such raids "aim at destroying the base of aggression and cutting off oil supplies of the evil gang ruling in Tehran".

Neither Iran nor shipping sources in the region confirmed the claims. Iraq has reported four raids since December 26 that have not been confirmed or drawn a public response from Iran. However, delays of several days are not uncommon for reports about ship attacks.

Iran usually answers each Iraqi attack on shipping with one of its own, concentrating on ships trading with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Iran accuses the two states of aiding the Iraqi war effort.

Thirty-four Gulf ship attacks were confirmed last month, according to Lloyd's Shipping Intelligence Unit in London, ending a year that saw a record 178 such strikes on merchant vessels. The pace of attacks escalated as the year ended. Lloyd's said that October and November each saw 21 attacks. The worst previous year was 1986, when 107 attacks on commercial ships were recorded.

The Iranian President told Friday worshipers at Tehran University that, if a naval blockade were imposed on his country, "the Persian Gulf will not only be closed for us, but for all the regional states of the Persian Gulf".

His remarks were carried by *Tehran Radio* and monitored in Nicosia, Cyprus.

The Speaker of the Iranian Parliament, Hojatoleslam Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, made a similar threat in December to block the Gulf, which carries about 20 per cent of the non-communist world's oil supplies.

Washington (AFP) — Mr Frank Carlucci, the US Defence Secretary, will start the new year with a visit to the Gulf, the Defence Department said. He will leave tomorrow and visit Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, and Saudi Arabia. He plans to make a brief stop in Paris before returning to Washington on January 11.

The United States has been pressing for an arms embargo to enforce a Gulf War ceasefire resolution issued on July 20 by the United Nations Security Council.

The Soviet Union has suggested an international naval force for the Gulf.

The Soviet Ambassador to the United Nations, Mr Alexander Belonogov, said on Thursday that the primary purpose of such a force would be to protect shipping, but he indicated it might also enforce an embargo.

President Khamenei said that an arms embargo against his country "is not possible and is of no use, since we are producing most of our weapons". Iraq has accepted a ceasefire in principle, but Iran has demanded that a halt to fighting be linked to reparations from Baghdad and an international declaration that Iraq started the war.

Mr Belonogov said that his country saw the arms embargo and establishment of a naval force as "parallel actions", but added that one did not depend on the other.

He said action on sanctions would be impossible before another mediation effort to Iran and Iraq by Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN Secretary-General. No plans for new talks have yet been announced.

Mr Belonogov said that the formation of an international naval force "could make redundant the national forces or lead to a reduction of such a military presence".

Moscow has called for the removal of foreign fleets from the Gulf. Washington has said it would consider an international fleet if that did not mean replacing its own taskforce of some 30 warships in the region.

French salvo opens fresh front in cheese war

From Susan MacDonald
Paris

There appears to be no sign of a ceasefire in the European cheese war now that the French have shot themselves in the foot with a magazine claim that the country's famous Vacherin cheese is contaminated.

The essentially Franco-Swiss war, which has, however, seen such countries as Sweden and West Germany come in on the Swiss side, started last November, when a listeria epidemic in Switzerland caused the death of 31 people and resulted in the banning of its own soft Vacherin Mont d'Or cheese thought to be responsible.

The French had hardly time to crow over their neighbour's misfortune when they realized that the backlash was affecting their hand-made Mont d'Or, now also under scrutiny.

Hostilities increased when the Swedes banned not only the Swiss Mont d'Or but also the French bleu de Bresse and Tourée de l'Aubier. Heavy reinforcements were called up when the West Germans followed suit and the French Prime Minister, M Jacques Chirac, appeared on television to savour courageously this apparently dangerous product.

With the sudden slump in the sales of French Mont d'Or starting to recover, a press conference was called by the French Vacherin Producers' Association to clear the name of their product. But internal enemy agents rekindled the conflict. For instead of tasting the sample so kindly offered at the press conference, the journalists from the magazine *Sciences et vie* took it away and analysed it.

Their published results show that the rind was contaminated with a form of listeria bacteria. To cover the damage the Ministry of Agriculture quickly pointed out that the bacteria discovered were not of the dangerous variety, and the Vacherin Producers' Association called the analysis null and void because the cheese, they said, had been stolen and must have been handled by several people before being analysed. Besides, one is not supposed to eat the rind.

Le Monde this week was sufficiently concerned to dedicate a front-page article to the dangers of such a war. Would the more stringent controls that countries were threatening to impose mean the end of a craft — the making by hand of genuine cheeses — in favour of a tasteless pasteurized product, it asked. More serious still, would not these sterilized products cause a decline in the body's anti-body system if there was no aggression from bacteria to fight against?

It recalled the terrible day for French Camembert producers when the US authorities decided to prove to Americans that Camembert was innocuous. Unfortunately, they had forgotten that there was very little real food left in America and several doctors became ill after eating it.

Although the largest salvo was probably fired by the French Minister for Agriculture, M François Guillaume, who declared that the other side was really only concerned about protecting its own domestic cheese market against imports instead of caring about health, it is understood that negotiations for an end to hostilities are underway between the Swiss and the French.

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Kremlin economic reforms

Shares on offer to workers in sharp reversal of ideology

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Workers in the Soviet Union are being permitted for the first time to purchase dividend-paying shares in their enterprises as part of sweeping economic reforms which came into effect yesterday and significantly blur the distinctions between communism and capitalism.

In addition to the share-purchase schemes, due to start next week in a limited number of firms, Mr Alexei Antonov, the Deputy Prime Minister, has urged Soviet firms involved in ventures with Western concerns to issue and trade in shares on the open market.

Mr Antonov, in calling for a rapid increase in joint ventures with the West, said: "The exported technology should be jointly maintained and repaired, qualified experts and workers should be sent abroad, and shares, bonds and other securities should be bought, issued and invested."

The overnight respectability of the despised practice of buying shares has fuelled speculation that the long-term logic of the Gorbachov reform programme will lead to the establishment of a Moscow stock exchange, or at least a domestic corporate bond market along the lines of that thriving in Hungary.

Official sanction for the concept of worker shareholders came in a front page article in *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, the popular official paper, which reported in detail how shares will go on sale at a large Ukrainian construction organization at the end of the new year's holiday on Monday.

A chart is to be drawn up on the wall outside the bookkeeper's office showing shareholders the profit status of the firm and the amount that shares are earning.

At the end of each financial year, the shareholders will receive dividends.

The paper reported approvingly that the local bureaucracy had not hesitated to approve the sale of shares at the Nikolaev-L'Vov Construction Combination.

It quoted company officials as saying: "At last we have found a way to directly interest everyone in achieving a profit."

Another official publication *Stroitelnaya Gazeta* (Construction Gazette), reported that, as a result of the new State Enterprise Law, designed to decentralize control of 60 per cent of Soviet industry, the Economic Council in the booming Siberian oil town of Nizhnevartovsk had also approved the sale of shares to workers at a local construction company.

Under the experimental new schemes, which have yet to cross the ideological Rubicon of permitting citizens to purchase shares in companies other than those for which they work, dividends will depend both on profitability and on the length of time a share has been held.

Komsomolskaya Pravda reported that the original proposal had been made at a meeting of workers at Nikolaev-L'Vov. "For five minutes there was absolute silence in the hall," it said.

"They laughed at the idea of even talking about the sale of shares, and nobody thought the idea would take concrete shape so quickly. Then there were two hours of questions, exclamations from the floor, caustic retorts and serious proposals."

Twelve die in Bangkok hotel inferno

From Neil Kelly
Bangkok

Mr David Tai, an engineer from Melbourne, watched his wife lose her grip on the landing skid of a helicopter which had lifted her from a blazing Bangkok hotel yesterday morning and then fall 100ft to her death.

Mr Tai, aged 36, had got into the helicopter first to help his wife, Jane, aged 32, across the gap from the narrow ledge on which they had been stranded for two hours awaiting rescue.

"Suddenly the helicopter veered away from the building," he said. "She hung on for about 10 seconds and then went down. The helicopter was moving very fast. I suppose her arm was too weak." Mrs Tai fell nine storeys on to another building. Police said she died instantly.

Eleven other people, including an American and five Singaporeans, died and at least 50 were injured in the fire which gutted the nine-storey First Hotel in the city centre.

It began about 4am in a reception room filled with new year revellers and swiftly swept to the upper floors trapping many people who were asleep. Some of the 350 guests later said they had heard no fire alarm.

The fire forced the Tais, who had been asleep, and dozens of others on to the roof. "We were waiting on a narrow parapet barely able to breathe because of the heat and smoke," said Mr Tai. "The flames were only a few yards away when the helicopter hovered alongside us." He said a policeman had stopped him from helping his wife into the police helicopter.

The Tais, who were born in Vietnam, went to Australia 10 years ago. They have two children, aged eight and six, who were staying with relatives while their parents were in Bangkok for a holiday to celebrate Mr Tai's new job.

Among the hotel guests were a group of 22 deaf-mute Belgians who escaped injury.

The Tais were part of an Australian group on a package tour called "Asian Dreams". Mrs Wendy Hebbard, of Melbourne, said: "It was more like an Asian nightmare."

She and her husband had a miraculous escape when flames "chased" them, she said, along a high ledge. He fell several feet through flimsy plastering, breaking his shoulder. "I never thought we could crawl along that narrow piece of building, but if we hadn't flames would have engulfed us," she said.

Many of those injured suffered severe fractures after jumping from high windows to escape the flames. Firemen on the scene said they had been surprised at the speed of the fire through the building.

Helicopters and ambulances took casualties to hospitals. The sound of helicopters overhead in the dark hours before dawn alarmed many Bangkok residents, who feared that a coup to overthrow the Government was under way.



A mother comforting her son, left, after escaping from the blazing First Hotel in Bangkok yesterday, while crew of a rescue helicopter, right, lift trapped guests from the hotel roof.

Hundreds of local people living in flimsy, wooden houses nearby flocked into the street, fearing that their homes would be destroyed. The hotel stands in a densely populated market area known for cheap shopping and good restaurants.

● ROME: Fireworks set off to blast in the new year killed three people and injured 601 others around Italy, with the firecracker-loving Neapolitans once again topping the injury list, authorities said yesterday (AP reports).

The official tally from the Interior Ministry showed a sharp increase from revelry-related accidents in 1986, when 459 Italians were hurt.

In Puglia, a 17-year-old boy was killed when a friend fired his pistol to greet the new year, accidentally hitting him in the chest, police reported. Firing guns has in the past been a New Year's tradition, especially in southern Italy, but is officially discouraged and is gradually disappearing.

Footage on state-run RAI television showed the Bay of Naples at midnight illuminated by thousands of bursts of light from the fireworks that claimed one life in the southern port and injured 127. Two other Italians died during fireworks explosions in the Sicilian capital of Palermo.

● MANILA: Ten people were stabbed to death and at least 700 injured as revellers in Manila brawled in the streets, set off giant firecrackers and blazed away with firearms to usher in the new year (Reuter reports).

Fires swept through eight crowded neighbourhoods during the celebrations, making hundreds of families homeless and destroying thousands of pounds worth of property.

● CHARTRES: A 12-car pile-up on a busy highway south-west of Paris on New Year's Eve left nine dead and 18 injured, four of them seriously, police said yesterday (AP reports).

Wall Street crash calls halt to boom in the Big Apple

From Our Own Correspondent, New York

New York is nursing more than a new year hangover. After years of glitz and prosperity that turned Manhattan into the Mecca of the roaring eighties, the party has suddenly stopped.

"The boom is over," the Mayor, Mr Edward Koch, announced this week. For once, the voluble, forever wisecracking city leader may not have been exaggerating.

The Wall Street collapse on October 19 was only the biggest of a series of blows that have signalled the approaching end to the city's miracle recovery from the economic disaster zone it had become in the mid-1970s.

Now, from beneath the ferocious opulence of much of Manhattan, the Big Apple's endemic ills of corruption, crime, failed schools, homelessness and racism are emerging.

In the final weeks of the year, tensions between blacks and whites rose to a degree not seen since the 1970s and the Mayor himself appeared to pour oil on the fire.

Stung by insults from a newly revived civil rights movement in the city, Mr Koch blamed blacks for terrorizing white New Yorkers. "I believe overwhelmingly that blacks do not fear to walk in white neighbourhoods in this city," Mr Koch said. "I believe there would be many more whites who would be fearful of going into neighbourhoods that are described as overwhelmingly black."

Mr Koch also noted that blacks were more afraid of other blacks than whites, a remark that brought further denunciations of racism from black leaders.

Mr koch has also run into a political storm over the appointment of a new chief for the city's crumbling school system. In the worst areas such as the Bronx and Harlem, about half of secondary school leavers are now considered to be functionally illiterate. Some of the schools resemble armed camps.

Now the city is once again going to be short of cash.

The city is more heavily dependent on the financial services industry than any other in the country.

Mr Koch froze municipal recruitment immediately after the crash and this week he said the city would have to cut back on police and other services unless it raised taxes on property.

The huge building boom that reshaped the Manhattan skyline in the last few years has ground to a virtual halt. Mr Koch is now coming under fire for the tax concessions he made to dubious developers to lure them to put up strings of ostentatious towers.

Part of the negative impact has been an explosion in property values that has priced the lower middle class and working class out of Manhattan and other parts.

New York fights for tortured son of diplomat

From Charles Bremner
New York

New York City officials, acting against the wishes of the US Government, are preparing a last-ditch attempt to prevent a Zimbabwean Embassy employee from taking home the nine-year-old son whom he is said to beat and torture.

In a case which has caused diplomatic tension between Washington and Harare, a state appeal court ruled on Thursday that the New York authorities could not prevent the forcible return of Terrence Karamba despite evidence that his father, Mr Floyd Karamba, brutally beat him.

Mr Karamba, an administrative employee at the Zimbabwean Mission to the United Nations, is covered by diplomatic immunity and has not been prosecuted on beating charges prepared by the city police after Terrence's school reported his wounds in early December.

The State Department, acting for the Zimbabwe Government, has been demanding that the local authorities release the boy. Government officials, irritated by the diplomatic friction the case is causing, say New York has no right to interfere in the case of a family covered by the immunity rules.

The boy has been living since early December in a city foster home and has refused to see his mother or father, city officers told the court. Psychological tests showed that "the foster home is the one place in the world where he feels safe," a juvenile affairs lawyer said. The father, according to New York officials, regularly beat all his three children but singled out Terrence for the worst treatment.

"The father has on several occasions removed all of Terrence's clothing, tied his arms behind his back with wire or rope, tied his legs together and hung him by his bound arms from a pipe in the basement," the court papers said. "The respondent has then beaten Terrence with an electrical extension cord." The father also cut him down from the ceiling, letting him fall on his face, they said.

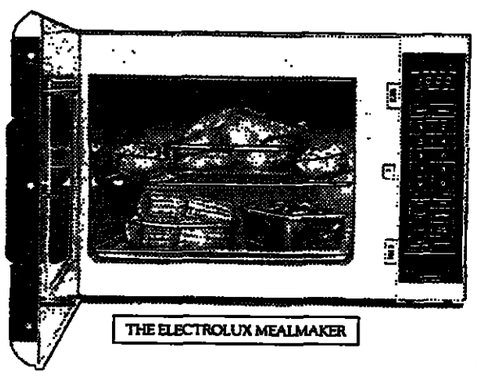
The State Department argued that no court could act against a family covered by diplomatic immunity and it presented assurances from Zimbabwe that the authorities there would ensure Terrence's safety.

But New York officials said they would exhaust every possible legal avenue, no matter how flimsy their case. "There is no question in my mind that, legally, they are entitled to effect the transfer," said Mr Robert Wayburn, the lawyer for the city's Human Resources Administration.

The New York authorities have become particularly sensitive to child beating cases since the death of a seven-year-old girl in early November who was beaten to death by her father after officials had ignored complaints from schools and neighbours.



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The siege of Khost

Thousands of rebels join battle

By Edward Gorman in London
and Hasan Akhtar in Islamabad

Thousands of Afghan guerrilla fighters were reported to be making their way to the battlefront in the mountains around the beleaguered garrison town of Khost in eastern Afghanistan yesterday. They are trying to help keep up what appears to have become the biggest and bloodiest winter battle yet in the country's eight-year-old war.

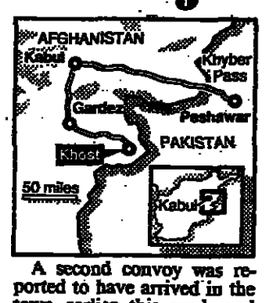
The guerrillas were responding to a call for volunteers from the leading Mujahidin commander in the area, Mr Jalaluddin Haqani, who has been fighting combined Soviet and Afghan Army units trying to reach the town of Khost for the past three months. Reports from Pakistan say 3,000 Mujahidin had reached Paktia and Logar provinces yesterday to reinforce the 6,000 guerrillas operating around Khost.

The rebel attempt to demonstrate that they are still holding their ground comes as the Kabul regime and Moscow are mounting an unprecedented propoganda offensive in an attempt to convince the world they are achieving real military victories in the run-up to the re-opening of negotiations for a political settlement in Geneva. At the same time, the Soviet Union is coming under increasing world pressure to set a date for the withdrawal of its troops.

The United States Under-Secretary for Political Affairs, Mr Michael Armacost, is due to visit Pakistan for talks with government officials next week, whileSeñor Diego Cordóvez, a senior United Nations official conducting the indirect Geneva talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan, is due in both capitals later in the month.

As diplomatic efforts intensify, it appears imperative to both sides to be seen gaining or at least holding their ground.

Giving the fighting remarkable publicity, both Radio Kabul and Tass in Moscow have maintained during the past week that relief columns have now broken through the guerrilla defences, with the first supplies for the town's 40,000 population in months. Their reports have included colourful accounts of how the inhabitants "danced in the streets" and showered the 155-lorry convoy with flowers when it arrived carrying 1,200 tons of oil, rice, sugar and other staples in Khost.



A second convoy was reported to have arrived in the town earlier this week and yesterday Kabul Radio claimed its biggest success yet, with a convoy comprising 229 lorries with 1,398 tonnes of Soviet-supplied food and consumer goods. The report claimed that the arrival of the convoy eliminated food shortages in the town, and that 10,000 tonnes of supplies would go to the town daily in convoys of up to 190 vehicles for the next five days.

Earlier, the official Afghan Bakhtar news agency quoted an officer, Abdul Haq, who had taken part in what was described as a "mopping-up" operation along the 80-mile stretch of highway between the provincial capital of Gardez and Khost, as saying that the Afghan armed forces had now proved their ability to defend the borders and guarantee peace in the country.

But his interview indicated how hard the lifting of the siege had been. He spoke of five bridges having had to be built and more than 40 miles of road repaired and cleared of hundreds of mines before the convoy could proceed.

The rebels, who have been fiercely denying the claims of a breakthrough for a week, were reported yesterday to have finally conceded that some 60 lorries had got through by breaking off from the main highway and entering the town from the south.

But they insisted that the main convoy was still pinned down on the Gardez to Khost road, and continued to deny that 2,000 guerrillas have died in the recent fighting.

In what appeared to be some backing for their statements, medical workers at the Red Cross Hospital in Peshawar told *The Times* yesterday only between five to 10 Mujahidin battle casualties have been admitted in the past two weeks.

While there has been no independent confirmation that the siege has been lifted, Western observers now accept that some supplies must have reached the town.

North Korea ready to talk with Roh

Tokyo (AFP)—President Kim Il Sung of North Korea said yesterday that he was ready for a dialogue with South Korea, which is to have a new president this year, a Pyongyang Radio broadcast monitored here reported.

In his new year's message to the nation, President Kim said he was prepared to talk to the new South Korean administration if it intended to ease tension on the Korean Peninsula. Observers here said that Mr Kim was apparently indicating his readiness to talk with the President-elect, Mr Roh Tae Woo, when he becomes South Korea's head of state next month.

President Kim proposed a meeting of government officials as well as representatives from political, social and business groups to discuss the co-hosting of the Seoul Olympics.

The International Olympic Committee has rejected Pyongyang's demand that it be named co-host of the games. But the committee has offered Pyongyang the chance to stage the archery, table tennis, women's volleyball, men's 100-kilometre cycling race and some football events.

President Kim called for similar meetings to discuss US-South Korean military exercises and disarmament.

Meanwhile, Mr Roh told the *Mainichi* newspaper here that he would welcome North Korean participation in the Seoul Olympics despite suspected North Korean involvement in the disappearance of a Korean Air Lines jet with 115 people on board in late November.

● SEOUL: South Korea's opposition is marshalling its disparate forces for another crucial battle with the ruling Democratic Justice Party (Gavin Bell writes).

Having failed to incite a revolt with allegations that the vote was rigged, it is now reluctantly turning its attention towards National Assembly elections likely to be held next month.

The opposition is set to begin the second round much the same way it ended the first — divided by the increasingly bitter rivalry of its principal leaders, Mr Kim Young Sam and Mr Kim Dae Jung. Their professed optimism that they will do better this time is unconvincing, since they appear to have lost support by splitting the opposition vote in the presidential poll.

The forthcoming elections are likely to be their last chance to secure a vestige of power.

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France fosters African role

Thatcher faces lukewarm welcome as old links fade

By Susan MacDonald

Mrs Thatcher leaves on Monday for a four-day visit to Kenya and Nigeria. The fact that this is the first time she has visited an African country – apart from the 1979 Commonwealth conference in Zambia – since becoming Prime Minister brings into question Britain's attitude to a continent with which historical ties were formerly strong.

A senior British diplomat, who started his career 30 years ago, said: "When we were setting up independence for our African colonies in the late 1950s, we were sure that they would thank us one day because, unlike the French, we were giving them real independence. However, it has not worked out like that."

How welcome Mrs Thatcher will be in these two countries remains to be seen. The reception in Nigeria, at least, will be lukewarm for two reasons, both of which reflect a Nigerian feeling that Britain is out of tune with Africa.

First, there is the Prime Minister's stand against South Africa sanctions, which is translated in black Africa as support for the present regime. Second is the feeling that Britain has not helped Nigeria in her economic and political troubles, but has adopted a wait-and-see attitude before belatedly lending support.

"Mrs Thatcher has taken more than eight years to come to Africa," a spokesman for President Babangida's Government said. "How many trips to Africa a year do the French President and French Prime Minister make?" The answer is at least one each, but Franco-African relations have been built on a different concept.

De Gaulle planned carefully in giving independence to France's African colonies on the basis that France's wish to be considered a world power would depend largely on her ability to dominate in Africa. Leaders of newly-independent countries were chosen with care and most states were economically linked with France by a common monetary system on a fixed parity with the franc. Thousands of French officials remained in place, and education continued to be a strictly French affair.

The structure, which has lasted remarkably well, provides work abroad for French professionals, an export market for French goods and know-how, and also helps sustain French as a world language. Only in the past five years have French-speaking countries in West Africa begun to ask French advisers to leave, opening jobs to their own university leavers. In education, it is only recently that lessons have included African heritage, rather than simply copying the French domestic curriculum.

In addition, the presence of about 10,000 French troops in Africa allows France to play a stabilizing role geared to French interests.

A French aid official in Paris said: "It is not true that the amount of aid we give depends on the regime in place." However, the evidence suggests otherwise.

In Burkina Faso, for example, a French adviser talked of the "difficulty" of working with the late President Sankara. "He was a man with his own ideas on his country which did not always coincide with ours. However we agreed that he could be responsible for his own domestic policy – we even agreed that he could decide on his own foreign policy, providing it did not clash with French interests." France is hoping for to a more "normal" relationship with the new President.

Although much diminished, French "co-operants" continue to play important roles in government and industry. According to a diplomat: "If we want to know what is going on in any sector we just contact the co-operant in that field and we have the information we need."

The French know better than anyone that their present African role cannot continue much longer. As a new generation of French-speaking Africans are fighting against what they refer to as "neo-colonialism," the French are using their African knowledge to spread their commercial influence into English-speaking countries, including Kenya and Nigeria.

Last month, soon after his appointment, General Gilbert Forray, the new French Army Chief of Staff, visited Nigeria where he spent a week being taken around military establishments. "We recognize, whether we like it or not, that France is now the major foreign power in Africa," a senior Nigerian Government official said.

Some other English-speaking countries, such as Ghana, feel that French-speaking Africa has paid a high price for stability.

The view is that political and economic chaos is part of an inevitable development process.

Unrest and murder in India



Police restraining a protester during a New Year's Day demonstration against the Government of Mr Rajiv Gandhi in Delhi.

In Punjab the new year began with seven Sikh extremists armed with AK47 rifles massacring nine members of one family. The dead were also Sikhs and a note allegedly signed by Mr Avtar Singh Brahma, chief of the outlawed Khalistan Liberation Force, accused the head of the family of having been an informer.

On average more than three people were killed each day in the tormented state of Punjab during 1987.

The official casualty figure was 1,246 – the largest number since the capture of the Golden Temple of Amritsar by the Army in 1984.

Extremists were said to have killed 822 civilians and 97 policemen during the year.

Guerrilla protest bombings hit Jaffna

Colombo (AFP) – Tamil guerrillas set off bombs in Jaffna yesterday, forcing residents to close offices and shops and stay indoors, official sources here said.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam put up posters warning people to stay away from work to protest against the Indian Army's presence in the Northern and Eastern provinces.

● **Violent year-end:** New Year's Eve violence took 13 lives in Sri Lanka, including 10 Sinhalese farmers killed in a Tamil raid on Mahadivulwewa village in Trincomalee.

Tunis pardon

Tunis (AFP) – The son and son-in-law of a former Tunisian Prime Minister, Mr Muhammad Mzali, were among many political detainees freed under a New Year's Day pardon.

T-shirt ban

Lilongwe (AFP) – Malawi ordered citizens here not to wear or possess a T-shirt distributed by the exiled rebel group, the Malawi Freedom Movement.

Nuclear crash

Richland (AFP) – A lorry carrying low-level radioactive waste crashed near this town in Washington state. Police said that there was no danger to the public.

Noise ban

Harare (AP) – Zimbabwe's state airline has been barred from flying into Gatwick Airport because its Boeing 707 planes are too noisy.

Wage rise

Ouagadougou (AFP) – Captain Blaise Compaoré, leader of Bukina Faso, announced a wage rise for workers in the public and private sectors as well as clemency for prisoners.

Climbers die

Vienna (AP) – Two Austrian mountain climbers fell to their death as they descended Mount Grosser Oetscher near Lackenhof, south of here.

Famine threat

Antananarivo (AFP) – Drought is threatening to provoke famine in several regions of Madagascar, experts here said.

Wife and mistress battle for film-star's political heritage

From Michael Hamlyn
Delhi

What looks like a terminal split in the ruling party in the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu is expected to be formalized today at meetings of the two warring factions.

The party is the All-India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, founded as a vehicle for the ambitions of the film idol turned Chief Minister, Mr M.G. Ramachandran – known as MGR – who died on Christmas Eve. Each faction is led by a former film star: respectively MGR's widow and his mistress, Mrs V.N. Janaki Iyer and Miss Jayalalitha Jayaram.

Oddly, although the whole thrust of the Dravidian movement – of which the party is a principal arm – is anti-Aryan and anti-Brahmin, both women are Brahmins. But the film industry has had close ties with politics in Tamil Nadu. The cinema was quickly seen as a potent vehicle for political propaganda by the founders of the Dravidian movement, especially Mr C.N. Annadurai, MGR's political mentor, who wrote film scripts.

Mr Annadurai was succeeded as Chief Minister by another scriptwriter, Mr M. Karunanidhi, who wrote scenarios which starred MGR as a Dravidian Robin Hood, rescuing poor Tamil women from the clutches of wicked Brahmin capitalists or feudal landlords. MGR's charismatic screen presence became a crowd puller for the party. Then, 20 years ago, he began to feel that he could wield power himself.

His wife, like him from a Kerala family, began as a dancer and later co-starred with him. After they began living together in 1950, she gave up her film work. She took no part in politics but is now being pushed forward as her husband's political heir by a far more thoroughly professional political figure, Mr R.M. Veerappan.

He was production manager of seven of MGR's films. As a the strong man in MGR's Cabinet, he would have been the most likely successor, were it not for the steely ambition which made him feared rather than loved. He rapidly fell out with Miss Jayaram, who also co-starred with MGR but who, unlike Janaki, proved to have political ambitions of her own when she became the idol's intimate friend. Miss Jayaram was made party propaganda secretary and represented Tamil Nadu in the the upper house of the Indian Parliament.

She regards herself as the sole repository of MGR's political heritage, and yesterday declared she had been elected to succeed him as general secretary of the party.

The dominance of the film industry in Tamil politics was emulated in the neighbouring state of Andhra Pradesh by Mr N.T. Rama Rao. Where MGR played heroes, NTR played gods. He turned his immense popularity into personal power by launching his own regional party, the Telegu Desam, and was dramatically elected to office at the first state elections he contested in January 1983. When be was dismissed by Mrs Indira Gandhi in 1984, he was virtually carried back into power by an uprising against the Prime Minister's action.

The pity of it all is that, despite their vast appeal, neither MGR nor NTR have been much good as administrators, or even had sound political judgement.

To try to counter the tinsel attractions of the silver screen, the Congress (I) Party – driven out of power in all the southern states – has brought its own stars into politics. In Tamil Nadu, for example, Mrs Vijayanthimala Bali, the widow of a successful businessman, was wheeled out to counter the glamour of Miss Jayaram at the hustings.

Mrs Bali is one of the most distinguished classical dancers in India. She performed for royalty before embarking on a film career. Now, at 54, with startlingly well-preserved good looks, she sits in the Lok Sabha, the lower house. She does not say much, however.

Manila (AFP) – Philippines show business personalities are flocking to the hustings in local elections. Politicians have traditionally invited film and television stars to campaign rallies to pull the crowds, but now the stars are campaigning on their own account for provincial, city and municipal posts. They include comedians, actors, television hosts and former beauty queens.

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SPORTING DIARY

Simon Barnes

Pitching up in Arran

The Arran island of Innishmaan, 70 miles off Co Mayo, is, as you would expect, rugged, rocky and almost bereft of anything resembling soil. This is tough for islanders who fancy a game of Gaelic football or hurling. But, being people of hardy, independent spirit, accustomed to improvization, they recently imported 300 tons of soil from the mainland, which every able-bodied male among the population of 250 helped to shift. They have another 300 tons on order. All going well, they hope to have a two-acre pitch ready for play by August.

30 years on

"Preserve us from a Ministry of Sport! . . . Always there is the laughable assumption that the healing touch of state will put things right . . . Nor is there one convincing reason for trying the experiment . . . Sport as recreation, as exercise, as entertainment, or as business, is the very last place where these legitimate activities should suffer any interference." This extract from a *Times* editorial of July 1957 has been dug up by the Central Council for Physical Recreation. "The writer had considerable insight," said its general secretary, Peter Lawson. Yes, but the writer could not have dreamt then of anyone as *keen* as Colin Moynihan. Could he?

Fat in fire

Here is a story of shame and disgrace in Japan. Fatahaguro, the 24-stone grand champion Sumo wrestler, has been expelled from the sport. Reprimanded for bullying his stablemates, he responded by elbowing the stable master's wife and pushing the 88-year-old chairman of the stable supporters. His expulsion is the first in Sumo's elite division. I wonder what alternative careers there are for Sumo wrestlers.

Example

Mark Malone, quarter-back for the Pittsburgh Steelers, is the lowest rated passer in the American National Football League. Tony Morelli of Wintersville, Ohio, is a devoted Steelers fan. Recently he drove a car into the Three Rivers Stadium in Pittsburgh and manoeuvred it up three floors, destroying several drums of nacho cheese (whatever that is) in the process. He abandoned the car, and was later arrested kicking imaginary field goals on the pitch. The arresting officer, Frank Vetere, reported: "He just said he was tired of Mark Malone's passing."

● **Quote of the Week, from Boris Becker: "I'm happy with my form. I'm beginning to play as I did in my old days." Becker is just 20.**

Quite

Sutton United, the heroes of the last round of the FA Cup, who play Middlesbrough in the next, have a tale to tell about one of their forwards who fell foul of a referee by disputing an offside decision. When caught offside a second time he ran on and put the ball in the net. The referee pulled out his notebook and uttered the immortal words: "Right, lad, what's your name?" The forward replied, truthfully: "Francis Edgar Awaritefe." "Well," said the ref, closing the notebook and putting it away, "don't do it again."

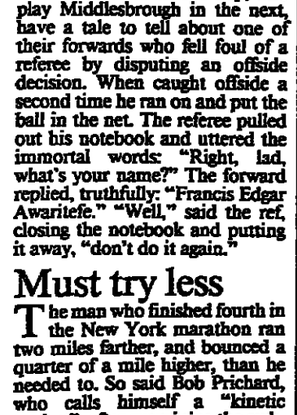
Must try less

The man who finished fourth in the New York marathon ran two miles farther, and bounced a quarter of a mile higher, than he needed to. So said Bob Prichard, who calls himself a "kinetic analyst", after examining the awkward running style of Pat Petersen. The way the runner's legs cross over apparently made the extra two miles. The exaggerated bounce in his stride gave him the unwanted vertical bonus: Prichard estimates that runners bounce a vertical mile in every marathon, but Petersen bounced even higher.

Field day

As the search for cricket goat teams continues, Michael Stebbings writes to me with a soccer nightmare XI. The x-rated team goes like this: Schumacher; Dennis, Berry, Hunter, Roberts; Souness, Bremner, Stiles; Whiteside, Jordan, Steve Williams; managed, of course, by Alan Ball. A tenner on the way, Mr S.

BARRY FANTONI



'I agree – it does *feel* as if Mrs Thatcher has been in power since 1957'

Wrong route out of the jams

by Alfred Sherman

In an interview with *The Times* this week Peter Imbert, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, said the time might come when motorists might need a permit to enter central London during peak hours or, as in Singapore, would have to be carrying at least two passengers. He should beware of floating ideas for tackling London's traffic problems that have not been thought through.

To put such a scheme into practice would face insurmountable problems. For a start, "Central London" is not a clearly defined area but means anything you wish. Nor has it boundaries where check-points could be set up. It also contains large numbers of residents, most of whom own cars.

Car sharing raises more problems than it solves, including insurance regulations and the understandable reluctance of women to accept lifts from strangers. Many people need the mobility which only a car can provide for their work. Hence intractable problems of checking and enforcement would be created.

Furthermore, so long as free parking and freedom of movement continued to be enjoyed by MPs, ministers, civil servants, local government councillors and local authority staffs, among other favoured groups, including, of course, the management of public-passenger transport enterprises, the likely impact on public opinion of this extension of the "two nations" division by ordinance can easily be imagined.

Nor are buses automatically anti-congestant, as seems to be taken for granted. True, when full they carry more people per square yard of road space than cars, but their continual stopping to pick up and drop passengers slows down all traffic. New regulations to change the balance between forms of road passenger transport would take us no further towards reducing congestion or pollution.

To tackle congestion, we should first ask what causes it. One cause is that much cross-London and long-distance traffic goes through central London streets for lack of alternatives, such as urban motorways. These could be provided by converting surplus railway lines to create a network linking rail and coach stations for use by road passenger transport.

The major cause of peak-hour congestion, habitually overlooked, is the traffic to and from the main rail termini, as commuters make their way between station and place of work. They are heavily subsidized by the national Exchequer, one of several ways in which the less well-off parts of the country are obliged to subsidize excessive growth in London and the South-east.

Were commuters obliged to meet the full cost of their rail journeys, both they and their employers, who benefit indirectly from the subsidy, would be more cogently persuaded of the virtues of decentralization than by all the urgings of ministers. While some operations require a physical presence in the City or West End, many others would relocate if they had to pay the real cost of travel.

Unfortunately, while congestion grows in central London, British Rail has just announced plans for intensifying it. If its investment plans are approved, it will speed up its medium-distance services in order to encourage yet more people to commute to London from as far afield as Norfolk, Leicestershire and Dorset. Commuters from north Bedfordshire have already doubled in 10 years, thanks to heavy BR investment.

Government subsidies to British Rail are already moving up towards £1.5 billion annually. The new plans would raise them further. They will benefit a relatively small number of people and enterprises, while the cost will be borne by taxpayers all over the country.

Another major cause of traffic congestion in central London is the "eleventh plague", tourism. Successive governments have heavily subsidized it, at the expense of regional taxpayers as well as suffering Londoners alike, on the grounds that it creates goodwill and employment. But for whom?

One wants the heart to scold Mr Imbert. But one craves the assurance that someone somewhere is thinking systematically about these matters across the artificial boundaries of ministerial function, taking into account the workings of cause and effect, even at the risk of courting accusations of that eighth deadly sin, "ideology".

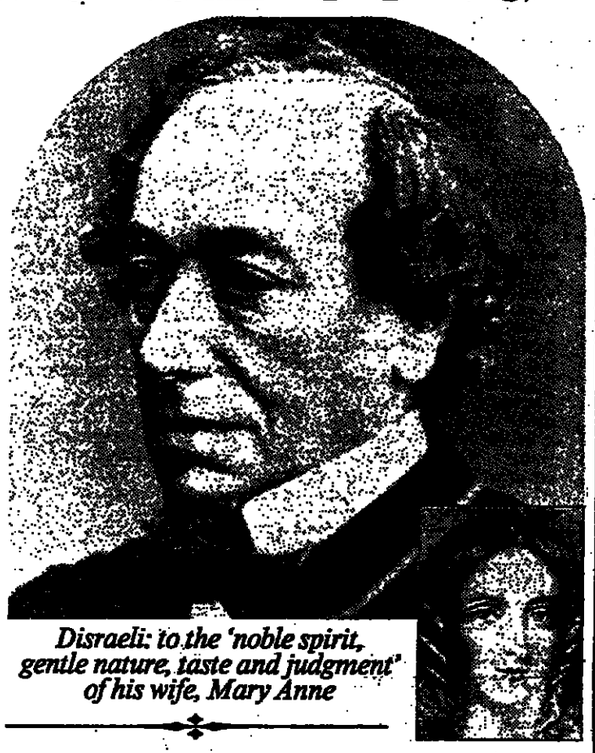
Sir Alfred Sherman served as a borough councillor in central London.

John Grigg makes a preliminary survey of literary dedication

Their words their bond



Jane Austen: a 'most respectful' dedication to the Prince Regent at his own suggestion



Disraeli: to the 'noble spirit, gentle nature, taste and judgment' of his wife, Mary Anne

Among the many anthologies now available, there is one notable omission: an Oxford (or any other) Book of Dedications, recording which literary works were dedicated to whom. Yet such a work might surely be of interest.

There are various types of dedication. One is the ceremonious and portentous, of which the most extravagant example must be that of the Authorized Version of the Bible: "To the most high and mighty Prince James, by the Grace of God, King of Great Britain" etc. "Great and manifold were the blessings most dread Sovereign, which Almighty God, the Father of all mercies, bestowed upon us the people of England, when first he sent Your Majesty's Royal Person to rule and reign over us . . ." And so on. The sycophancy of the language could hardly have been exceeded if the dedicatee had been God Himself (as might indeed, have been more appropriate).

Another royal dedication, in which the language is more restrained and probably more tongue-in-cheek, dates from two centuries later: "To His Royal Highness The Prince Regent this work is by His Royal Highness's permission most respectfully dedicated by His Royal Highness's dutiful and obedient servant, The Author". The author: Jane Austen. The work: *Emma*.

It would have been more accurate, if less courtly, for her to have said that the book was dedicated to the Prince at his suggestion, rather than by his permission, because the initiative was his. He conveyed the hint to her through his librarian.

High-flown dedications are, as might be expected, a feature of Winston Churchill's work. *My Early Life* is dedicated "To a new generation". The life of his father, Lord Randolph, which might well have been dedicated to his mother, is instead offered as a tribute to the head of the family: "To Charles Richard John Spencer-Churchill, Duke of Marlborough, this book in all faithful friendship is inscribed".

The life of his great ancestor, the first Duke, has a collective dedication: "To the Grenadier Guards . . . in which John Churchill, afterwards Duke of Marlborough, received his first commission . . . which served under him at the battles of The Schellenberg, Blenheim, Ramillies, Oudenarde, and Malplaquet . . . and all the principal sieges and other great operations during the victorious campaigns, this work is dedicated by the author in memory of the courtesies and kindness shown to him by the regiment in the Great War". (The reference at the end involves my father, who commanded the Grenadier company with which Churchill had his first experience of life in the trenches when, in November 1915, he arrived on the Western Front after leaving the Asquith cabinet).

Another form of dedication is that of authors paying homage, or acknowledging debts, to one another. There is a good deal of both in Pope's dedication of his *Essay on Man* to Henry St John, Lord Bolingbroke, since Bolingbroke was a famous man who was also the principal source of the ideas expressed in the poem. He was the author's "guide, philosopher, and friend" (a phrase that occurs in the everyday speech of many who have never read, or even heard of, the *Essay on Man*). Joseph Conrad dedicated a number of his books to fellow-authors. One of the most powerful of them all, *The Secret Agent*, has this dedication: "To H.G. Wells, the chronicler of Mr Lewisham's love, the biographer of Kipps, the historian of the ages to come, this simple tale of the XIX century is affectionately offered". I am unaware of any books by Wells dedicated to Conrad, though I dare say there is one. At any rate Wells dedicated his *Marriage* "fraternally to Arnold Bennett".

An outstanding case of mutual literary admiration involves G.K. Chesterton and E.C. Bentley (inventor of the Clerihew). Chesterton's brilliant fantasy *The Man who was Thursday* is dedicated to Bentley, with the addition of a longish poem beginning: "A cloud was on the mind of men, and wailing went the weather,/ Yea, a sick cloud upon the soul when we were boys together./ Science announced nonentity and art admired decay;/ The world was old and ended: but you and I were gay". (The last word could not have been used today to mean what he intended it to mean. So much the worse for our language).

In return, Bentley dedicated to Chesterton one of the most original of all detective stories, *Trent's Last Case*: "My dear Gilbert, I dedicate this story to you. First: because the only really noble motive I had in writing it was the hope that you would enjoy it. Second: because I owe you a book in return for *The Man Who was Thursday*. Third: because I said I would when I unfolded the plan of it to you, surrounded by Frenchmen, two years ago. Fourth: because I remember the past."

Spouses are, naturally, very frequent recipients of dedications. One of the most florid is Disraeli's in *Sybil*: "I would inscribe this work to one whose noble spirit and gentle nature ever prompt her to sympathize with the suffering; to one whose sweet voice has often encouraged, and whose taste and judgment have ever guided, its pages; the most severe of critics, but – a perfect Wife!" He meant it, and Mary Anne Disraeli deserved the tribute.

Among others who have dedicated major works to their wives one could mention John Galsworthy (*The Forsyte Saga*) and H.A.L. Fisher (*A History of Europe*). Fisher's dedication is terse and classical: "*Laetitiae Sacrum*". Since his wife's name was Lettice, he may well have felt that it would look better in the Latin version.

I can think offhand of only one book dedicated to an animal – Agatha Christie's *Dumb Witness*: "To dear Peter, most faithful of friends and dearest of companions, a dog in a thousand".

Doffing the hat to an English Thucydides

Richard Ollard on the little touted centenary of Clarendon's great history of the Rebellion

Lord Clarendon, like his friend Thomas Hobbes, was inspired to his supreme work by what they both regarded a supreme disaster – the war between Charles I and the Parliament. After the Royalist defeat both men shared the penurious exile of the young Charles II: indeed it was in the Paris of the early 1650s that the horrified Clarendon read the as yet unpublished *Leviathan* with which Hobbes was preparing to work his passage home.

There and then their ways parted. Although they moved in the same intellectual circles, Hobbes personified the sceptical philosopher, Clarendon the engrossed observer of the men and actions of his time: men he had known personally, actions in which he played a notable part.

"There was never yet a good history written but by men conversant in affairs," he roundly declares, consigning, with Gibbonian disdain, the works of monkish scholars to the rubbish tip of pedantry. In our century Trotsky, de Gaulle and Churchill would have satisfied his criterion. But the supreme, the towering exemplar is Thucydides, with whom Clarendon has other affinities.

Both men wrote the history of one protracted convulsion that overwhelmed the world they knew. Both wrote in undeserved exile: both died before their work was published. And the history of the war between Athens and Sparta was composed, like *The History of the Rebellion and Civil War in England*, at different phases of the author's career. Both works require critical study to disentangle what was written when.

Clarendon had begun his history as a fugitive from the victorious Parliament, first in the insecure shelter of the Scillies and then, in 1646-48, in the Royalist redoubt of Jersey. The work was intended for the eyes of his unhappy master, Charles I, at that time a prisoner. It would show the King where he had made mistakes and what ground he should occupy to regain the loyalty of honest men.

Clarendon spared no pains to acquire materials from his ex-colleagues in the King's service, both military and political. Himself the chief draughtsman, on the Royalist side, of the propaganda salvoes exchanged before the shooting started, Clarendon was exceptionally qualified to state the origins and causes of the war. As a member of Parliament who had acted with Pym in demolishing the constitutional fortifications which Strafford and Laud had manned for the monarchy he had shown that he was no uncritical supporter of royal power.

But in 1648 the second Civil War broke out. Clarendon, recalled to active political duties which one way and another were to occupy him for the next 19 years, put the history aside. After his fall in 1667 he was once again an exile. To preserve himself from bitterness and melancholy he embarked on an autobiography.

When he had nearly finished it his second son, Laurence, was allowed to visit him in France. Laurence brought with him the manuscript of the *History*, abandoned 23 years earlier. Clarendon decided to complete it by robbing the autobiography. The result was published by Laurence in 1702-04, nearly 20 years after his father's death, as *The History of the Rebellion*. The *Life*, as the autobiography was called, was published half a century after that.

The 1888 edition of the *History* was the work of the Rev W.D. Macray, for many years on the staff of the Bodleian Library. Sir Charles Firth's 1909 judgment of it cannot be bettered:

"To estimate the value of any statement made in *The History of the Rebellion* you have to ask when it was written, why it was written and whether the writer had any documents at his side as he wrote. The supreme value of Dr Macray's admirable edition lies in the fact that it makes it easy to answer all these questions, for it shows whether a particular passage is taken from the Autobiography, or from the fragmentary history written in 1646, or from the passages added in 1671 to connect them together."

This promises to be a vintage year for centenaries, what with the Armada and the Glorious Revolution. But the publication in 1888 of the first accurate and critical edition of Clarendon's *History* also deserves celebration. Now out of print for some years, it is high time Clarendon Press honoured the name it bears by republishing it.

Richard Ollard's Clarendon and his Friends *was published by Hamish Hamilton last year.*

Robert Kilroy-Silk

Kinnock: leader only in name

The year 1988 starts with a "hard truth" for Neil Kinnock: David Warburton and his critique of the Labour leader cannot easily be dismissed. He speaks for many, and those who have belatedly shuffled to Neil's defence carry no conviction with party members by trying to characterize him as a crank and a malcontent. He is neither. He certainly cannot be described, in the words Neil has so often employed when contemptuously dismissing his critics from within, as being without influence, of no account, as on the fringe, a tassle.

Warburton, deputy general secretary of the General, Municipal and Boilermakers' Union, is an experienced and respected trade unionist and a long-standing and moderate member of the Labour party. He has always been a loyal supporter of the party leader. He does not say things he does not believe, speak out of turn, or engage in the politics of rent-a-quote. He is no traitor, no boat rocker and no fool.

So, for him to write in *Labour Forward* that some "hard truths" are needed, that the Labour leader is lethargic, that he has taken no initiative since the general election, and that the distance between the "leadership and the left of the movement is . . . demoralizing" is extraordinary, to put it mildly. By any standards, so considered and premeditated an attack is an important political event. It does no one any good to pretend otherwise or to suggest that it has all been got up by the Tory press.

Indeed, not enough has been made of this onslaught from the moderates. If Warburton can say all this in print then it's odds on that dozens of other trade unionists think the same. He may not, as he was the first to acknowledge, speak for them all, or even the two score or so senior trade unionists and MPs that make up *Labour Forward*. Who could, ever? But he has articulated publicly what many trade unionists have been saying with a great deal of vehemence privately for some time. Dissatisfaction within the union movement is widespread.

Nor is the unease confined to the industrial wing of the movement. It is shared by some Labour frontbenchers. It is they who bemoan the state of the party in Parliament and in the country, who complain about a policy vacuum and who despair about the future. Their demoralization is obviously shared by the backbenchers. How else can we explain their poor attendance at important debates, like that on the NHS?

While Neil cannot be blamed for all of this – he cannot be reproached for the inevitable sense of futility caused by a third election defeat and the prospect of another four years of impotence – he must nevertheless accept some responsibility. That's one of Warburton's "hard truths". It is a renunciation of leadership and a denial of responsibility for him to encourage or allow some newfound friends to rubbish Warburton in lurid terms for the "Christmas betrayal" and to brief the lobby with accounts of Neil having made a "rallying speech" in Scotland; to insist that he has been busy with the policy review and to remind us that he has been asking questions of the Prime Minister. It's all a little hollow, and demeaning, made the more so when Doug Hoyle patronizingly tells us that "Neil is doing very well in Parliament."

Perhaps he is. But, as one Labour wag retorted, if he has been doing so well, why haven't we heard more about it? In fact, of course, Warburton has a point. That's why it hurts. The truth is that the major and most effective opposition to the government since the general election has come not from Labour but from Tory backbenchers. It is they who have really performed the role of Her Majesty's Opposition.

It was the Tories led by the quietly indefatigable Sir George Young who did all the real work and sustained the intellectual and parliamentary fight against the poll tax. Again, it is Tory MPs who are the most eloquent critics of the Education Bill, who have organized and carried through the opposition to the proposal to increase the charges on dental and optical care, and who are battling to save child benefit.

And it is the Tories, in the person of the formidable and determined duo of Richard Shepherd and Jonathan Aitken, who are giving the government a hard time over secrets and who are successfully wringing out of the government a reform of the discredited Official Secrets Act. Meanwhile, the Labour opposition appears content with uncouth slanging matches across the despatch box, and hooligan behaviour from some of its backbenchers. David Warburton and the brothers would have to be saints not to feel despair, and even anger, at the wasted opportunities.

And make no mistake, this is the year of opportunity for the Labour Party now that the Alliance has crumbled and with the Conservatives embarking on the most radical, certainly the most controversial, and probably the most unpopular policies of their nine-year regime. The poll tax and the erosion of the NHS and the state education system will all hit at the real interests of the minority and will offend the sense of fair play of many of the majority. If Warburton's Christmas missive has the effect of directing Labour's attention to the real issue it will be worth its weight in gold. It might even save the party.

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The author was a Merseyside Labour MP, 1974-86.

Michael Kinsley

Lightweights v flyweights

Washington

It's official. "Experts Fault Democrats On Economic Platform," declared the page one headline in *The New York Times* the other day. The paper's experts certified what everyone already knows to be true: that none of the Democratic presidential candidates, except former Arizona governor Bruce Babbitt, has an honest solution to the deficit mess. They all talk fiscal responsibility but are shy on the painful details.

A *Washington Post* editorial the same day accused the Democratic candidates of lacking "gravitas". (In other words, all are lightweights). The indictment: refusal to tell the truth about the need to raise taxes and refusal to offend Democratic interest groups. It omitted a third count in the standard indictment: that the Democrats lack experience, charisma, vision and other qualities that put the vita in gravitas.

It's hard to dispute this assessment of the Democratic list. My question is: compared to what? Where is the gravitas when the Republican clowns come grinning and drooling onstage? Indeed, on economic policy the Democrats win the gravitas stakes by default. They at least don't pretend to believe, as does Vice-President George Bush, or actually believe, as does Congressman Jack Kemp, that there is no serious problem. They have at least one candidate, Babbitt, with a credible, specific plan both to raise taxes and cut spending. The closest the Republicans can come to this degree of straight talk is Senator Bob Dole's dark reference to the need for "bitter medicine".

No Democratic stunt can compare for craven fatuousness with former Delaware governor Pierre "Pete" du Pont's so-called "Taxpayer Protection Pledge": a blood oath not to raise taxes which he challenges his opponents to sign. For sheer idiocy, what could top evangelist minister Pat Robertson's suggestion that tax revenues be raised by banning abortion, thereby increasing the taxpaying population?

The gravitas test for Democrats has become: what interest group are you willing to offend? Fair enough. But how would the Republican candidates do on the same test? One way to look at the Republican triumph in the past two presidential elections is that the Democrats suffered from a pander gap. While they pandered to traditional Democratic groups, the Republicans figured out how to pander to *all* groups across the political spectrum: those who love big government spending (including defence spending) and those who hate big government taxes. They think they can get away with this because Reagan spectacularly got away with it.

Of course they pander best to their own. No Democratic candidate has abased himself as thoroughly as Bush did by stagily inviting Oliver North and John Poindexter – all-but-confessed perjurers and lawbreakers – to his official Christmas party. No Democrat sounds as comically insincere as does the worldly Bob Dole when he is swearing devotion to the New Right agenda on social issues such as abortion.

The only candidates in either party with any genuine charisma are the two ministers, Jesse Jackson and Pat Robertson, and Jackson has more. Not many of Bush's or Dole's supporters could convincingly claim to be attracted by any sense of Reagan-like magic. In fact, no one on the Republican side has generated even the minimal personal excitement among voters of floppy-eared Senator Paul Simon or the increasingly mysterious Gary Hart.

Experience? Let's see. Each side has one loony clergyman. One Republican, General Alexander Haig, has never held elective office and Bush hasn't won an election on his own for 20 years. Each side has one congressman best known for a piece of dangerous demagogic legislation (Richard Gephart, trade protection; Jack Kemp, tax cuts). The Democrats have two governors of large states, the Republicans one of a small state. The Democrats have three current or former senators, the Republicans one, albeit the minority leader.

The only reason the Republicans seem a weightier crowd is that two of them have broken away from the gaggle, and one is the sitting vice-president. But Dole is a classic Capitol Hill *apparatchik* and Bush is the national twit. The worst thing about Hart's re-entry is that it has put off the moment when the mantle of gravitas will descend, however implausibly, on one or two Democratic frontrunners.

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TWO PRIME MINISTERS

Today the Prime Minister adds Herbert Henry Asquith, later Lord Oxford and Asquith (1852-1928), to her long list of defeated rivals. She breaks his record as the Prime Minister with the longest consecutive period in office this century.

Asquith was a hard man for her to beat. He lasted as Prime Minister for eight years from April, 1908, to December, 1916. It took a world war to remove him. She has broken his record, while having a style which is the opposite of the style with which he achieved it. "Wait and see," was one of his remarks. He was also associated with the phrase, "masterly inactivity".

She would have thought him an idler and a wet. He would have thought her a vulgar, silly woman. Not that he disapproved of women as such. He is accused of approving of them too much — but not in politics. He was against giving them the vote, let alone making one of them Prime Minister.

But there are surprising similarities. Asquith and Mrs Thatcher were both meritocrats. Both came from modest backgrounds. Asquith's father — a small employer in the wool trade — was no grander than Alderman Roberts, the Grantham grocer. Both were able to make their way in the world via scholarships to Oxford. Both are proof that the orthodox complaint about the British "class system" would only be justified if it were a caste system, which it is not and never has been.

Both are deeply English. In a century in which so many Prime Ministers have been Celts, or had a Celtic strain, these two record holders are — in their different ways — products of middle England, the caution and tenacity of which perhaps help explain their longevity. Asquith was cautious all the time. Mrs Thatcher is more cautious than many people think.

Asquith used Oxford to acquire the same classical education as any upper-class statesman. Mrs Thatcher used it to become the first British Prime Minister to have a science degree. She did not seem to be using the university as a preparation for politics. So their journeys begin to diverge. But there is one last similarity. After Oxford, both became lawyers.

There the early similarity ends. Asquith's legal cast of mind never left him. It helped him rise smoothly to the premiership — with his dispassionate approach, clarity, reputation as a safe pair of hands, and lack of zeal. Mrs Thatcher is not dispassionate; her mind is sometimes muddled, and she is all zeal.

She became leader by a far less usual route than did Asquith. She identified herself with "monetarism" and opposition to state intervention — the doctrines of the Tories of the early 1970s who were trying to subvert Mr Heath's leadership. She was therefore the first Tory leader to seize the leadership from the right since Asquith's opponent, Bonar Law. With the Tories in Opposition, with a leader considered a loser, Bonar Law had used the Ulster cause to undermine Balfour in the way that Mrs Thatcher used the "free market" to undermine Mr Heath.

One was a Prime Minister who preferred guile, the other prefers the direct challenge. There are points in their careers, though, when the effect was the same. Asquith, too, defeated a frightening miners' strike (1912) — but by guile. Both tangled with Ulster. But Mrs Thatcher was powerful enough to ditch the Conservative right and sign the Hillsborough Agreement, since it is always easier to ditch people if they are in one's own party. Asquith never felt himself powerful enough to ditch the Opposition and impose Irish home rule on Ulster.

If the premiership can be held for so long by two such dissimilar people, it tells us something about the office: to keep it for so long, different Prime Ministers can use different means. It also tells us something else: that, once the times change, what were previously a Prime Minister's qualities become defects. Asquith was good at peace, but bad at war.

Perhaps the times will change for Mrs Thatcher. They have not yet changed enough. The times are not ready for a more emollient figure such as Asquith — agreeable though that would be when those times, thanks to Mrs Thatcher, finally arrive.

CHINA WITHOUT ILLUSIONS

Peking's injured response to the expulsion of two of its diplomats from Washington contrasts with the insouciance of the US State Department over the affair. Yet China's anger is less remarkable than the fact of the expulsions. The two Chinese are the first to be expelled since the United States and the People's Republic of China established diplomatic relations nine years ago and the accusations of espionage against them end a period in which the Chinese have appeared to be above serious US censure.

It is tempting to conclude that the diplomats must have committed a particularly flagrant breach of protocol. But public expulsions are rarely a direct punishment for a specific offence. The world of diplomacy prefers to handle such matters quietly. Expulsions tend rather to reflect a general deterioration in relations, an accumulation of ill-feeling, which finally exhausts diplomatic patience.

The past year has witnessed just such a worsening of US-Chinese relations. To long-standing US complaints about China's policy of enforced birth control and equally long-standing Chinese complaints about access to the US market for textile exports have been added a series of new irritants.

The student protests last winter and Peking's harsh response drew attention to the continuing limits on democracy and free speech in China and to the risks run by those prepared to speak out. A report compiled by Amnesty International singled out China as one of the countries where torture persisted as a method of extracting confessions. The fact that the evidence had come to light largely thanks to China's greater openness did little to brighten the generally dismal picture of human rights observance by China.

Since the autumn, Peking and Washington have exchanged recriminations over Tibet. The Dalai Lama, who fled China nearly 30 years ago, was feted in the United States, eliciting vehement protests from Peking. Shortly afterwards anti-Chinese demonstrations in the Tibetan capital, Lhasa, were quelled by force. This brought equally strong protests from Washington which found formal expression in a Congressional amendment on human rights in Tibet.

In November, the US froze high technology exports to China after accusing Peking of selling Silkworm missiles to Iran. China protested its innocence and noted bitterly that the US was not without blame in this respect, but to no avail. The freeze is still in force.

The rapid increase in numbers of Chinese studying in the US has brought its own problems. Not only have many — too many for Washington — been overstaying, but the political ideas taken back by those who return have worried the Chinese authorities. Peking is now torn between its desire to have as many Chinese as possible trained in Western technology and concern at the political implications. It is angry about tighter US visa requirements, yet regrets the loss of talent when its graduates remain in the West.

Given the extent of the differences that have now emerged between the US and China, it may seem strange that the facade of cordiality was preserved for so long. But it was fostered by illusions on both sides. The US, and the West in general, cherished the idea that China's huge potential market would become accessible more quickly than it has. At the same time, they chose to disregard human rights failings in China which would, elsewhere in the world, have hampered trade and diplomacy early on.

China, for its part, saw the West as a source of high technology which could be tapped relatively cheaply and without becoming a political liability. Both sides saw each other as a potential bulwark against a hostile Soviet Union. With official attitudes to Moscow changing, both in Washington and Peking, the need for such support will seem less urgent.

For all these reasons, the economic and geopolitical prizes China can offer to its friends look correspondingly less impressive than they did. But if, as the present cooling of Sino-US relations might indicate, the West starts to treat China according to its real merits rather than on the basis of its own illusions and China's unfounded promises, both sides stand to benefit.

FOURTH LEADER

The Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, gives the Minister for the Environment powers to add to the list of protected fauna any creatures thought worthy of preservation which are in danger of becoming extinct. The Minister takes advice from the appropriate bodies, and he has recently been taking it from the Nature Conservancy Council, the members of which have presented him with a formidable list of threatened members of the animal and allied kingdoms. He is said to be pondering his decisions.

Reading through the list induces a powerful feeling that some animals are more equal than others. Nobody, surely, would object to the protection of an assortment of butterflies, and none but the very greedy would be upset by an attempt to conserve a rare variety of mussel. But heads will certainly start shaking when it comes to the basking shark and the adder, both of which have been put forward as in need of care and protection.

Most of us, contemplating the inclusion of these uneasy beasts in the list, will conclude that where sharks and adders are concerned, it is the people who need the protection. Some experts say that a shark will never attack a human being unless it is provoked, but it is a curious fact that many of those very experts have unaccountably disappeared before they could say it twice. As for adders, it may well be, as has also been alleged, that they will not sting unless they are trodden on, but since they take elaborate pains to blend into the landscape, even the most careful or ecologically minded walker may well put his foot down on a twig only to find that it has bitten him.

How far is the Nature Conservancy Council prepared to go? Most of us do not love black beetles, though we recognize, if we are scrupulously fair, that other black beetles probably do. Shall we shortly be forbidden to spray such creepy-crawlies with Flit?

Why stop there? Will there be bluebottle wardens, armed with powers of entry, to see that nobody swats one? And how long can it be until the vegetable world is included in the Schedule to the Act, so that we shall be prohibited from cutting down nettles or pulling up bindweed? And if that is too fanciful, let us return to reality: shall we have to collect witnesses who will testify that we only banged the shark on the head with the paddle because it was about to devour the baby? Where is Crocodile Dundee now that we really need him?

The road to the zoo is paved with good intentions. Give them an adder and they will take a midge. Indeed, they will go further, claiming poetic licence for doing so, for Hilaire Belloc had the last word on the subject:

He prayeth best who loveth best
All things both great and small.
The streptococcus is the test,
I love him most of all.
Amen.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Second-hand list for Third World

From the Head Master of Bristol Cathedral School

Sir, I have just completed a tour of six countries in southern and east Africa on behalf of Schools' Partnership Worldwide, making twinning arrangements between schools there and in the UK and visiting some 35 secondary schools in the process.

Wherever I went, the single most acute and crippling shortage was of books: classes of over 50 for physics, or even English, where the only textbook was the teacher's; library shelves either empty or containing volumes 20 years old or older; major bookshops in capital cities now selling crockery, with just a few dozen ageing titles for sale in a corner.

The book drought in these countries vitiates the enterprise and determination of those involved in the education service and seriously compromises their young people's chances of success.

On the other hand, secondary schools in the UK face this year, for the first and perhaps only time, a book flood. In increasing numbers, course books for the "première" of GCSE are becoming available and are starting to make many conventional O-level books redundant. Yet these same O-level courses will continue to be taken in African Commonwealth countries and these books, far from being redundant there, represent a resource of almost inconceivable value.

Is there an agency, public or private, which could undertake as a matter of urgency the collection, collation and shipment of these second-hand books to our African friends? At a stroke we would help to alleviate what would be for us, and is for them, intolerable educational hardship.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER MARTIN,
Head Master,
Bristol Cathedral School,
College Square, Bristol, Avon.
December 30.

Christmas spirit

From Mr E. L. C. Mullins

Sir, Late in the afternoon of Christmas Day I visited an old lady, aged 83, frail, independent, living on her own in the London Borough of Wandsworth. Some months previously her ancient electric cooker had broken down and, resisting the attention of a relay of technicians from the London Electricity Board, had obstinately refused to be mended.

The board assured her that new parts were being obtained and would be brought by their fitter on Christmas Eve, as indeed they were. Predictably, the parts proved to be unsuitable and the fitter, after long and ingenious effort to overcome the difficulty, had to admit defeat. The old lady resigned herself to yet another meal cooked "on top".

Shortly after one o'clock on Christmas Day the fitter returned. "Couldn't leave you without a Christmas dinner, dear", he said, and presented, with his wife's good wishes, a large warmed dish of sliced turkey with all the trimmings, enough for three meals, attractively arranged, covered by another dish, all snugly wrapped in aluminium foil.

"Can't stop", he said. "The family won't start theirs till I get back. God bless". And he was gone.

Yours faithfully,
E. L. C. MULLINS,
100 Breton House, Barbican, EC2.
December 27.

Overnight bonus

From Mr Ronald J. A. Wood

Sir, It will no doubt be of interest to all the gardening readers that yesterday I picked mushrooms from my lawn. Not enough for a banquet, but sufficient to give out-of-season flavour to eggs and bacon.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD J. A. WOOD,
Cruck Cottage, Cliff Road,
Wrelton, Pickering,
North Yorkshire.
December 29.

Practically lacking

From Mr C. E. Iliffe

Sir, Your list of those "Facing up to a bright future" (Spectrum, December 29) contains no engineers. I bet the Japanese list does!

Yours faithfully,
C. E. ILIFFE,
Honey Cottage,
Woodbury Salterton, Devon.

Suitable response?

From Mr Tommy Nutter

Sir, With regard to your piece (Diary, December 30) about whether the statue of John Kennedy should have the top button of the suit done up or undone, this would depend on the cut of the jacket.

If the jacket is a single-breasted, button-one front, obviously the jacket would be fastened. If single-breasted, button-two front, only the top button should be fastened. If single-breasted, button-three front, the centre button only should be fastened.

If the jacket is double-breasted, low-button-one, show-two front, the bottom button only should be fastened. If the jacket is double-breasted, button-two, show-three front, only the top button should be fastened.

Is that quite clear?

Yours faithfully,
TOMMY NUTTER,
19 Savile Row, W1.
December 30.

Conflicting attitudes on sexuality

From Prebendary Michael Saward

Sir, In your wise and excellent leader, "A church of sinners"(December 30), you make the surprising statement that "the Church of England has never fully endorsed the Protestant Reformers' view of the 'total depravity' of human nature".

That is, frankly, not true. Articles 9-15 of the famous Thirty Nine provide a comprehensive statement of that very point and the Book of Common Prayer invites all to say "there is no health in us" every time we use the General Confession. What more evidence do you need?

"Total depravity" is not, and never has been, a doctrine declaring humanity to be as bad as it can be. To treat it as such is to demonstrate one's theological illiteracy. What it *does* maintain is that there is an element of "fallenness" in all that human beings think, speak, and do. I should have thought that most of us know ourselves well enough to acknowledge the truth of that. In that sense (and that *is* the historical significance of the phrase) the Church of England has certainly nailed its colours to the mast.

The practical consequence, especially in the current debate about sexuality and the ministry, is that, whatever our opinions and the necessary discipline which a church needs, we all recognise ourselves to be in glass houses and this quite rightly makes us cautious about heaving rocks at our fellow-residents.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL SAWARD,
Ealing Vicarage,
11 Church Place, W5.
December 30.

From Mr Leo Abse

Sir, I do not know whether Bernard Levin (December 28) is seeking to protect me from opprobrium or is begrudging praise; but I hope it is not a conceit on my part to point out that there is no such creature as an "Arran Act" to which he repeatedly draws attention.

Lord Arran's valiant efforts to reform the homosexual laws failed. It was not until 1967, after I had obtained a substantial majority for a 10-minute rule Bill I placed before the House, that the Bill I sponsored moved forward to the statute book. That became possible only because, on the prompting of Roy Jenkins, the Labour Government Cabinet decided to give me the parliamentary time to enable the House, on a free vote, to make a decision on the issue.

Even then, most members shrank from voting in the crucial stages of my Bill, showing the same pusillanimity which Levin now rightly condemns in the present Parliament.

The inflammatory provocations of a handful of local councils and the counter-productive incitements of Livingstone's followers can and will be contained by the Labour Party. But, nevertheless, the advent of Aids and its inexorable spread mean that the irrational hatred which Levin fears will certainly mount.

In 1967 there were sufficient of us in the Commons to go against the tide and alter the law; it is chastening a generation later to see an acquiescent Government and a timorous House now yielding to the rabble.

On this occasion Bernard Levin is not being extravagant: mob law remains mob law, even if it is enshrined in our statute book.

Yours sincerely,
LEO ABSE,
54 Strand-on-the-Green, W4.
December 27.

From Dr R. Mackie

Sir, I can't see how anyone who has read Auden's "Lay your sleeping head, my love" can fail to recognise this as one of the supreme expressions of human love. Perhaps we need reminding that the author, a practising homosexual and Anglican communicant, was invited about four decades ago to use the highest pulpits in the United States.

Is it any wonder that Anglicans in North America, Australia and elsewhere regard the Anglican Church in England as a rather backward province, so over-inflated in its self-importance as to regard these various local storms as being other than in teacups (though they are generally charitable enough to put this view tactfully)? Perhaps we could have the next Lambeth Conference in New York, where Auden loved and sang.

Faithfully,
R. MACKIE,
3 Fairlight Cotts,
Tanners Street,
Faversham, Kent.
December 29.

Planning faults

From Mr Maurice Ash

Sir, Mr Bevington (December 8) quotes from a letter you published in July, 1981, of which I am the unnamed but guilty author in my then capacity as chairman of the Town and Country Planning Association's council. He uses this in conjunction with another quotation from Mies van der Rohe, endorsed by yourself, Sir, to say by innuendo that this country has been dominated by impersonal forces, chief of which is planning.

For my part, I stand by what I said: namely, that planning is indispensable for a civilised life, and that its concern should be with the built forms of that life.

I say this in the conviction that without form there can be no meaning, and that the meaninglessness which the chaos of our larger cities has brought upon life is what planning has primarily been called into being to remedy. But this is not to say that I concur, either with the course planning has taken since the war, or the way in which it has been pursued *de haut en bas*.

The fault of planning in Britain — and it is grievous enough — has been its failure to recognise the changing form of cities: that, from being single-centred, they have become multi-centred. This failure of principled guidance on the part of planners has led to their becoming the pawns of their political masters.

High-rise housing in the inner cities, combined with piecemeal building beyond the green belt, has led to development in the image of the power bases — Labour and Conservative, respectively — of politics since the war. Planning, like politics (e.g., the poll tax), has thus become increasingly out of touch with life. Effectively, it has now abdicated.

Today we are stumbling backwards out of this confusion towards, but only towards, what has been the norm in France and other countries for 20 years and more: public-private partnerships in urban development corporations with statutory local commitment at the level of the commune — yes, the commune!

With us, because of the lack of any serious intellectual input, it is all still an inadequate mess; and so it will remain until the prime importance of local life, which has been the main plank of TCPA policy for several years past, has come to be recognised by central government.

Yours faithfully,
MAURICE ASH,
Sharpham House, Ashprington,
Totnes, Devon.
December 21.

Other men's queues

From Mr Stevan K. Pavlowitch

Sir, I was surprised to read that Mr Blumenau (December 21) finds he has to put up with "Balkan-type queues" in British post offices.

Born in the Balkans and teaching the history of that part of Europe at a British university, I had always — in true Balkan innocence — thought that the queues to be found in British post offices, and elsewhere in the United Kingdom, were symptoms of a British condition.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
STEVAN K. PAVLOWITCH,
University of Southampton,
Centre for International
Policy Studies,
Southampton, Hampshire.
December 26.

Abortion report

From Lord Brightman

Sir, I have read with some alarm your article on December 30 under the heading "Peers to seek 'on demand' abortion".

This article states that the select committee which I have the honour to chair is expected to recommend the banning of late abortions and may also recommend that abortions be allowed on demand until the twelfth week of pregnancy.

In this sensitive field I respectfully suggest that it is undesirable to speculate on what the committee, which has not yet completed its deliberations, is likely ultimately to recommend. One thing is certain, and that is that the question of whether abortions should be allowed on demand is outside the terms of reference of the committee.

Yours faithfully,
BRIGHTMAN,
House of Lords.
December 31.

Classical top ten

From Mr D. Chesterman

Sir, Analysis of all symphonies played in the Royal Albert, Royal Festival, Barbican and Queen Elizabeth halls and at St John's, Smith Square during 1987 shows that Beethoven remains top with 66, Mozart is runner-up with 58¼, and Mahler has done extremely well with 28⅛.

Then follow Tchaikovsky (24), Brahms (23), Dvorak (22½), Schubert and Shostakovich with 21 apiece. Haydn, even counting a Toy Symphony, has had a catastrophic drop from 37½ to 19, while Mendelssohn, in for the first time, is equal tenth with Sibelius (14 each).

Dvorak's New World is again outright winner with 15. Notable omissions: Mahler No 7 and Sibelius No 3.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID CHESTERMAN,
15 Shire Lane,
Chorleywood, Hertfordshire.

Top of the morning

From Mrs Ann Spokes Symonds

Sir, Yes, it is irritating to hear people say "Good afternoon" between midday and lunchtime (Mr Brian Taylor's letter, December 29), but all the more so because they are right.

Yours sincerely,
ANN SPOKES SYMONDS,
43 Davenant Road, Oxford.
December 29.

From Mr W. H. Saumarez Smith

Sir, Between noon and 1 pm "Good morning" is inaccurate and "Good afternoon" is pedantic. Is "Good day" too old-fashioned?

Yours faithfully,
W. H. SAUMAREZ SMITH,
16 Mill Road,
Salisbury, Wiltshire.
December 29.

Suitable stones for Albert

From Mr Eric Robinson

Sir, I was delighted to read (report, December 29) that plans have been approved to restore the Albert Memorial, albeit at a figure some 100 times its original cost. My joy is as a geologist, for, aesthetic judgements apart, the memorial is something of a demonstration of British building stones, as well as an open-air museum for geology.

As if to demonstrate the national grief of the time, the fabric of the memorial involves granites from Ireland, Scotland and Cornwall; limestone and sandstone from Derbyshire; slate from Leicestershire; sandstone from Nottinghamshire, to list only the major contributions from our national stock-in-trade.

Not all have stood the test of time, or the tread of countless feet, but as often happens, we now face the dilemma of restoration. Do we seek to restore the memorial to its pristine condition as finally completed in 1872? For metalwork and enamelling there could be a good case, but for stone, unless there is a safety consideration, much could be said for leaving the weathered condition of the surfaces little altered.

Apart from the practical value of being able to demonstrate the nature and extent of weathering after some 125 years, there should be some acceptance of the fact that, like you or I, buildings should be allowed to mellow and mature with the passage of time.

Yours with respect,
ERIC ROBINSON (Librarian, Geologists' Association),
University College London,
Department of Geology,
Gower Street, WC1.
December 30.

ON THIS DAY

JANUARY 2 1907

Our Military Correspondent, Charles à Court Repington (1858-1926), in a second article, on January 3, concluded, in respect of a Channel tunnel, "But nothing short of universal military service on the Continental model can justify us in weakening by an added risk the ocean barrier. . ." Parliament rejected the tunnel Bill in April that year

THE CHANNEL TUNNEL.

1.
(BY OUR MILITARY CORRESPONDENT.)

The Channel Tunnel question is one of very great interest and of far-reaching national importance. . .

It is of importance because the construction of a tunnel will in a sense terminate our privileged geographical situation, which is the envy of all foreign statesmen, and has been in the past the primary cause of the greatness of the British Empire. Fascinating though must always be the large and daring operation which the tunnel suggests; captivating though grand generalizations upon the theme of the union of nations must always prove for generous souls; valuable though may appear to be the commercial advantages which the tunnel may conceivably afford us, we must all allow that none of these things can be allowed to weigh in the balance against proof . . . that the venture will prove in the remotest degree a menace to our national security by reducing the measure of inaccessibility in time of war which insularity, coupled with the possession of a powerful Navy, implies.

The Bill which has now been laid before Parliament raises once more this question which was negatived so decisively when last before the country. Once more the Press is filled with the clamour of promoters, with mirific inducements to British investors, with tempting, not to say seductive, figures which endeavour to show that the profits of an enterprise which must depend, both for its cost and its success, upon a whole set of conditions which cannot be known until the tunnel is completed, can already be set down in coin of the realm. All these matters are wholly beside the point so far as the nation as a whole and the Government in particular are concerned; for the preliminary question is neither one of percentages and dividends nor yet of the new joy which would be added to life by evasion of the terrors of sea-sickness, but rather whether a tunnel shall or shall not be built at all. "The Government," wrote Mr. Chamberlain to Sir E. Watkin on October 15, 1881, "consider that their duty requires them to see, in the first place, that no national danger is involved in such an undertaking." It has been on this rock that similar enterprises in the past have split, and the proper course for us to adopt is, therefore, first to examine the reasons which formerly caused the tunnel to be disallowed, next to inquire whether lapse of time and the opportunities thereby afforded for calm and dispassionate consideration have in any degree invalidated the old arguments or disproved the evidence on which they were based, and finally to decide whether there are any new facts before us which justify us in assuming that the conditions are changed and that former conclusions may safely be set aside. . .

هكذا من الأصل

COURT AND SOCIAL

SOCIAL NEWS

The Duchess of York, Patron of the Combined Winter Sports Association, will visit Meribel, France, from February 3 to 6 to attend the Alpine International Skiing Meeting.

The Princess Royal will attend a dinner given by the Sports Aid Foundation and the Sports Aid Trust at the Mansion House on February 8.

The Princess Royal, President of the British Olympic Association, will visit the XV Olympic Winter games in Calgary, Alberta, from February 12 to 18.

Anniversaries

Today

BIRTHS: James Wolfe, general, conqueror of Quebec, Westerham, Kent, 1727; Gilbert Murray, scholar, Sydney, New South Wales, 1866.

DEATHS: Alexander William Kinglake, historian, London, 1891; Sir George Biddell Airy, astonomer royal 1836-81, Alnwick, Northumberland, 1892; Sir Edward Tylor, anthropologist, Wellington, Somerset, 1917; Edna May, actress, 1948.

Académie Française founded by Cardinal Richelieu, 1635.

Tomorrow

BIRTHS: Pietro Metastasio, poet and dramatist, Rome, 1698; Robert Whitehead, inventor of the naval torpedo, Bolton-le-Moore, Lancashire, 1823; Clement Attlee, 1st Earl Attlee, prime minister, 1945-51, London, 1883; Herbert Morrison, Baron Morrison of Lambeth, statesman, London, 1888; J.R.R. Tolkien, writer and philologist, Bloemfontein, South Africa, 1892.

DEATHS: Josiah Wedgwood, potter, Burslem, Staffordshire, 1795; Rachel (Elisa Felix) actress, Cannes, 1858; William Harrison Ainsworth, novelist, Reigate, Surrey, 1882; James Elroy Flecker, dramatist and poet, Davos, Switzerland, 1915; Jaroslav Hasek, novelist, Lipnice, Czechoslovakia, 1923; William Joyce, "Lord Haw-Haw", Nazi collaborator, hanged London, 1946; Edwin Muir, poet and critic, Cambridge, 1959.

International Monetary Fund loan to Britain of £2,300m, 1977.

Birthdays

TODAY: Professor Isaac Asimov, author, 68; Mr David Bailey, photographer, 50; Sir Richard Bayliss, former Physician to The Queen, 71; the Duke of Devonshire, 68; Professor Sir Kingsley Dunham, geologist, 78; Mr Walter Harrison, former MP, 67; Sir Anthony Lincoln, diplomat, 77; Lord Nelson of Stafford, 71; Mr Edmund de Rothschild, former chairman, N.M. Rothschild and Sons, 72; Air Marshal Sir Ernest Sidey, 75; Mr Keith Thomas, president, Corpus Christi College, Oxford, 55; Sir Michael Tippett, OM, CH, composer, 83; Dr Rachel Waterhouse, chairman, Consumers' Association, 65; the Right Rev Kenneth Woollcombe, former Bishop of Oxford, 64; Sir Philip de Zulueta, chairman, Tanks Consolidated Investments, 63.

TOMORROW: Brigadier Sir John Anstey, former president, National Savings Committee, 81; Mr David Atherton, conductor, 44; Mr John Bamborough, Principal, Linacre College, Oxford, 67; Mr Michael Barratt, broadcaster, 60; Mr Victor Borge, pianist and comedian, 79; Sir Robin Butler, Secretary of the Cabinet, 50; Professor Bryan Carsberg, chartered accountant, 49; Lord Colyton, 86; Mr Fran Cotton, rugby player, 40; Mr Roger Daltry, rock singer and actor, 44; Sir Alastair Forbes, former president, Court of Appeal, Gibraltar, 80; Mr Richard Hanbury-Tenison, Lord Lieutenant of Gwent, 63; Sir Roy Harding, education consultant, 64; Sir Errington Keville, former chairman, General Council of British Shipping, 87; Miss Anya Linden, ballerina, 55; Sir Carol Mather, former MP, 69; Sir John Riddell, royal equerry, 54; Mr R.R. Steedman, architect, 59; Mr John Thaw, actor, 46; Mr David Vine, sports commentator, 52; Professor T.S. Willan, economic historian, 78.

Appointments

Latest appointments include:

Mr William Powell Bowman to be Chairman of the Covent Garden Market Authority from April 1, in succession to Mr Peter Firmston-Williams.

Mrs Mary James, Headmistress of Queen Ethelburga's School, Harrogate, to be Headmistress of St Leonards School, St Andrews, from April, in succession to Miss Martha Hamilton.

Mrs Rosemary Nicholson to be Governor of the Museum of London. She succeeds Mr Simon Jenkins.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Ann Barnett, Parish Deacon, St Paul, Litherland, diocese of Liverpool: to be Parish Deacon, St Nathaniel, Platt Bridge, Wigan, same diocese.

The Rev Neville Black, Rector, St Luke-in-the-City, Liverpool, and Diocesan Urban Leadership Adviser, diocese of Liverpool: to be *also* an Honorary Canon of Liverpool Cathedral, same diocese.

The Rev Frances Briscoe, Director of Diaconal Ministries, diocese of Liverpool: to be *also* an Honorary Canon of Liverpool Cathedral, same diocese.

The Rev Guy Buckler, Team Vicar, Willington Team Parish, diocese of Newcastle: to be Rector, Willington Team Parish, same diocese.

The Rev Robin Everett, diocese of Leicester: to be Rector, Ibstock with Heather, same diocese.

The Rev Martin Field, Honorary Assistant Curate, Southwell Minister, diocese of Southwell: to be Press and Communications Officer, diocese of Manchester.

The Rev Eric Last, Vicar, St Andrew, Earlsfield, diocese of Southwark: to be Vicar, All Saints, South Merstham, same diocese.

The Rev Alan McCabe, Vicar, Westerham St Mary the Virgin, diocese of Rochester: to be Vicar, Eastbourne St John, diocese of Chichester.

The Rev Robert L Metcalf, Rector, Holy Trinity, Wavertree, Liverpool, and Diocesan Director of Ordinands, diocese of Liverpool; to be *also* an Honorary Canon of Liverpool Cathedral, same diocese.

The Rev Ronald Metcalfe, Diocesan Adult Training Officer and Canon designate of York, diocese of York: to be Secretary for Mission and Ministry, same diocese.

The Rev John F Price, Team Rector, Loughton, St Mary and St Michael, diocese of Chelmsford: to be Vicar, Kirby-le-Soken with Great Holland, same diocese.

The Rev Alan B Ramsay, Vicar, St Peter and St Paul, Lingfield, and St George, Crowhurst, diocese of Southwark: to be *also* Rural Dean of Godstone, same diocese.

The Rev Jane Waugh: to be part-time stipendiary Assistant Curate, Dunnington, diocese of York.

Retirement

The Rev Harold Roberts, Vicar, Dixon Green, St Thomas, diocese of Manchester: to retire.

Enoch Powell

The question mark following Matthew's three wise men

Over the Christmas period, millions of people will have been listening, not so much with incredulity as with bewilderment, to the narrative of the so-called three kings, read to them out of St Matthew's gospel, where alone it occurs. The sense of bewilderment, which many will only partially succeed in repressing, is justified.

There arrived in Jerusalem "from the East" an unspecified number of persons called *magoi*, a word not used elsewhere in the Gospels but meaning roughly astrologers.

The newcomers ask an astonishing question: "Where is the King of the Jews who has been born?" There actually was at the time, and in Jerusalem, the King of the Jews. Like him or not, that was Herod. He might one day have an heir — he tried several — but "born" is what a King of the Jews could not then be. The strangers gave an equally astonishing reason for their question: "We have seen his star in the East".

How came the "King of the Jews" to have a star so unambiguously identified with him as to be called "his" and to be widely recognized as such?

Even if there was some astronomical phenomenon considered to signal the birth of a king's heir, there were dozens of kings around to whom it might have referred. Moreover, supposing that the newcomers were correct in their interpretation of the portent, what motive could they have for wanting to "prostrate themselves" before a king who *ex hypothesi* was not their own?

Such a question and such a motive would be appropriate not to a king but to a world saviour.

Another difficulty follows. Herod immediately inquires where *the Messiah* is to be born. He would not do so unless that had been the original question of the magi. Evidently "saviour" in their question has been altered into "King of the Jews". The telltale "Messiah" remained in Herod's mouth because he of all people could not inquire where "the King of the Jews" would be born!

Why the tampering? In the book to which the narrative of the magi is prefaced, two alternative identifications of the principal figure compete. Is he the King of the Jews and son of David? Or is he the Messiah and Son of God? He will be tried and executed by Pilate as the King of the Jews, when he has already been condemned to death by the Jews as Messiah. Before the magi arrived he had already been given a father descended from David and also, in circumstances which exclude human parentage, a divine father.

There are further traces of tampering. Herod's murder plan is a muddle. He asks the magi privately the exact date and hour of the portent. Thus armed with place and time, he would have all that he needed for his emissaries to pinpoint the right baby and make away with it. It is superfluous for him then to ask the magi to do the identification as well.

The original function of the narrative of the magi was to confirm the supernatural status of the infant. A moving star guides them and stops over a particular spot. Miraculous interventions preserve the child's life and spirit him away. Herod is foiled, and has to resort to wiping out a whole cohort of Bethlehem children.

In rewriting to substitute "the King of the Jews", this supernatural narrative (verses 8-12) would have to be deleted. But then Herod must needs be provided with alternative means of identifying and murdering any child born "at the time he had ascertained from the magi". The words now sit side by side with the incompatible mass murder of all babies "from two year olds downwards".

The attentive listener has had quite an adventure. By refusing to repress his puzzlements, he has been privileged to catch a glimpse of the process by which the text evolved. More than that, if the interpretation of the Saviour as "King of the Jews" was revisionary and not (as might otherwise have been assumed) primary, that is profoundly important. The text of the gospel was the field on which the battle for the Incarnation was fought — and won.



Little and large: Mr Michael Farrin, a member of the Quorn Hunt, supervising Sarah Cooke, aged three, on her Shetland pony, when the hunt gathered at Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, yesterday (Photograph: Tim Bishop).

Marriage

Dr N.R. Beer
and Miss C.O.H. Neville

The marriage took place on Wednesday, December 16, at Princeton, New Jersey, between Dr Neil Ross Beer, younger son of Mr Keith Edward Beer and Mrs Alice Beer, of Doddiscombsleigh, Exeter, and Miss Colette Odette Henriette Neville, only child of Colonel Francis Graham Neville and Mrs Odette Isabelle Henriette Neville, of Broadstairs, Kent.

Latest wills

Mr Kenneth David Morgan, of Harpenden, Hertfordshire, left estate valued at £767,760 net.

Platform for excellence

By Peter Davenport

One of the finest examples of late Victorian seaside railway station architecture still in existence is to undergo a £3 million restoration programme to return it to its original splendour.

Preparatory work has already begun on the station, near the seafront at Tynemouth on Tyneside, and the major part of the first phase of the four-year scheme is expected to begin shortly.

The station, completed in 1882, was designed by William Bell, then chief architect of the North Eastern Railway.

One writer on the Victorian era has decribed it as being like a "petrified forest" with its vast glazed canopies covering the platforms, supported on huge iron columns.

In its heyday tens of thousands of working class families would pass through the station each summeron their annual trip to the seaside.

When it was taken over from British Rail by the Tyne and Wear Passenger Transport Executive in 1978, as a station for the Metro rapid transit system, it was almost derelict. Only the central platforms were needed for the Metro system and restoration of such a vast structure purely as a local station could not be justified in financial terms.

In 1986 the local branch of the Community Service Volunteers were given £28,000 pounds by Tyne and Wear County Council to carry out a feasibility study on the station's future.

The restoration programme will involve not only the original station but also the addition of training workshops, restaurants, sports facilities, a museum and shops.

English Heritage is giving £250,000, its largest conservation area grant, toward the £1.3 million cost of the first phase.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M. Roundell Greene
and Mrs J.P. Pinniger

The engagement is announced between Martin, only son of the late Mr George Roundell Greene and of Mrs Roundell Greene, of Beaconsfield, and Joanna Patricia, second daughter of Mr Keith and Lady Felicity Harwood, also of Beaconsfield.

Captain R.E. Gordon
and Miss M.A. Oakeley

The engagement is announced between Robert, son of the late Frank Gordon, and Mrs Pamela Davies, of Vancouver, BC, and Marina, daughter of Sir John and Lady Oakeley, of Bursledon, Hampshire.

Mr D.J. Barbour
and Miss J.K. Towler

The engagement is announced between Dominic, elder son of Mr and Mrs J.A. Barbour, of Tanyard Farm, Furners Green, Sussex, and Julia, daughter of Mr E.A. Towler, of Seattle, Washington, and the late Mrs Towler.

Mr A.K. Bubbear
and Miss T.B. Allen

The engagement is announced between Alan Keith, only son of Mr and Mrs L.S. Bubbear, of Luton, Bedfordshire, and Theresa Bernice, eldest daughter of Canon and Mrs S.L.S. Allen, of Sidcup, Kent.

Mr G. Evans
and Miss S.C. Parker

The engagement is announced between Gary, younger son of Mr David Evans, MP, and Mrs Evans, of MacKerye End, Hertfordshire, and Sara, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Frank Parker, of Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire.

Mr R.H. ffrench-Constant
and Miss K. Forbes-Robertson

The engagement is announced between Richard, youngest son of Dr and Mrs Martin ffrench-Constant, of Mylor Cottage, Droxford, Hampshire, and Kirstie, second daughter of Commander and Mrs Kenneth Forbes-Robertson, of West Barn, Soberton, Hampshire.

Captain T.J.L. Goble, AAC
and Captain C.M. Dolan, RAMC

The engagement is announced between Timothy James Lea, elder son of Mr James Goble and the late Mrs James Goble, of Takeley, Essex, and Catherine Mary, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Henry Dolan, of Winchester, Hampshire.

Mr I.S. MacDonald-Smith
and Miss A.F. Foster

The engagement is announced between Iain, son of Mr S. MacDonald-Smith, of Westbourne, West Sussex, and of the late Mrs J. MacDonald-Smith, and Alexandra, daughter of Commander and Mrs L.R.R. Foster, of Modbury, Devon.

Mr C.D.P. Mitchell
and Miss A.L. Priestland

The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Colonel and Mrs P.A. Mitchell, of Ellisfield, Hampshire, and Amanda Louise, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs R.C. Priestland, of The Coach House, Laugharne, Dyfed.

Mr C. Papadopoulos
and Miss J.M. Ellis

The engagement is announced between Christodoulos, son of Mr and Mrs A. Papadopoulos, of Nicosia, Cyprus, and Jane, daughter of the Rev J.G. and Mrs Ellis, of St Katherines Vicarage, London, W12.

Mr J.A. Patrick
and Miss J. Rollinson

The engagement is announced between John, elder son of the Rev J. Peter and Mrs Patrick, of The Vicarage, Donington, and Joanne, daughter of Mr and Mrs E. Rollinson, also of Donington, Lincolnshire.

Mr W.F. Randell
and Miss D.A. Potter

The engagement is announced between William, only son of Mr and Mrs A.J. Randell, of Warren Wood, North Walsham, Norfolk, and Daphne, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs J.W. Potter, of Snoddington Manor, Shipton Bellinger, Hampshire.

Mr D.I.P. Reyntiens
and Miss C.S. Liddell

The engagement is announced between Dominick, elder son of Mr and Mrs Patrick Reyntiens, of Ilford Bridges Farm, Close Stock Linch, Ilminster, Somerset, and Caro, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Adrian Liddell, of Westover Farm, Goodworth Clatford, Andover, Hampshire.

Lieutenant J.N.A. Wood, RN
and Miss E.J. Wills

The engagement is announced between Justin, son of Mr and Mrs D.J.D. Wood, of Titchfield, Hampshire, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr R.A. Wills, of Falmouth, Cornwall, and Mrs A.A. Randall, of Motcombe, near Shaftsbury, Dorset.

Mr M.P.V. Wyles
and Miss J.L. Manley

The engagement is announced between Matthew, elder son of Mr Michael Wyles, of Sao Paolo, Brazil, and Mrs Patricia Kettle, of Corfe Castle, and Joanna, daughter of Mrs Gilian Manley, of Bromley, and the late Mr John Manley.

Four years old.
Seriously underweight for her age.
Scavenging for food where she can find it.
And she's English.

With a stepfather who refused to acknowledge her existence and a mother too frightened to help her, this child was being slowly and deliberately starved.

She'd reached the point where she was feeding herself out of dustbins.

It didn't happen in the famine stricken third world, it happened in an English town, (like the one you live in).

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NSPCC

To protect the child's identity the face has been changed.

OBITUARY

LESLIE ARLISS

Wartime costume melodramas



Leslie Arliss, the British film director who made the popular Gainsborough costume melodramas of the 1940s, *The Man in Grey* and *The Wicked Lady*, has died at the age of 86.

Launched in the middle of the Second World War to audiences ripe for such escapism, *The Man in Grey* (1943) was a story of jealousy and murder set in Regency times which gave a decisive boost to the careers of its four stars: James Mason, Margaret Lockwood, Phyllis Calvert and Stewart Granger.

Mason and Lockwood appeared also in *The Wicked Lady* (1945), which repeated the formula in recounting the adventures of a seventeenth century highwayman and the lady who befriends him. Apart from its box-office success, the film became famous for Miss Lockwood's cleavage, causing scenes to be re-shot for distribution in the United States.

In between these two pictures, and also for the Gainsborough studio, Arliss made *Love Story*, starring Lockwood and Granger in a romance between an airman and a pianist. This was another big popular success, partly thanks to its musical theme, The Cornish Rhapsody.

Arliss was born Leslie Andrews, in London, in 1901, and was a relative of the actor, George Arliss, famous for his portrayal of Disraeli and other historical characters. He was educated at Tonbridge School, and started his career as a journalist in South Africa, before returning to Britain to work in the script department at Elstree studios.

From 1932, he collaborated on the scripts of several notable British films, including *Rhodes of Africa*, the Boulting Brothers' *Pastor Hall*; and the Second World War story, *The Foreman Went to France*. He turned to directing in 1941 with *The Farmer's Wife*, an adaptation of the stage comedy by Eden Philpotts.

Though he continued to make films after the Second World War, Arliss never repeated the success of his Gainsborough period.

From the mid-1950s until his retirement, he worked mostly in television, where his shows included *Douglas Fairbanks Presents* and *The Buccaneers*, a pirate series starring Robert Shaw.

He married Dorothy Cumming, who died in 1986. He is survived by their daughter.

DR ROBIN PINSENT

Doctor Robin Pinsent, OBE, a leading figure in British general practice, died suddenly at his Devon home on Christmas Day. He was 71.

During the 1940s he was one of a handful of doctors who helped to lift general practice from the doldrums in the face of specialist medicine, which appeared to be offering all the answers and to have secured all the future.

Working closely with Doctor (later, Lord) John Hunt, he was one of four GPs in the steering group that planned the formation of the (now, Royal) College of General Practitioners. Once established, he became a member of its foundation council, the first editor of its newsletter (later, *The Journal*), and the college's research adviser.

In 1956, Pinsent went into partnership with Dr Laurie Pike in an inner city practice at Birmingham, where they introduced many innovations, especially on record keeping, patient involvement, and teaching.

He wrote regularly in the *Medical Journal*, while his book *Approach to General Practice* was one of the first written by a GP for GPs. In a long-lasting partnership with Dr Donald Crombie, he established the Birmingham research unit of the college — a unit which, with the DHSS and the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, conducted an important series of national morbidity surveys.

In 1970, writing in the *Journal of Biosocial Sciences*, Pinsent tentatively suggested that individuals sharing one surname might be prone to one disease, or indeed resistant to a particular form of disease.

Following the conveational approach to inheritance as a factor in the distribution of disease, he studied one West Country surname and its social history from 1837 to 1960 — a technique which, in the past, had revealed the association of haemophilia with the Spanish royal family and the inheritance of a characteristic like the Hapsburg lip being found in certain families.

His contribution to the development of general practice was recognised by a succession of honours. He showed much bravery in coming to terms with his recent illness by returning to work and public speaking.

He leaves his widow, Ruth, a son and three daughters.

GUSTAV FRÖHLICH

Gustav Fröhlich, German actor and director, who starred in Fritz Lang's historic 1926 science fiction film, *Metropolis*, died on December 22. He was 85.

It was Fröhlich's role as Freder, the son of a capitalist boss in the futuristic city of Metropolis, which brought him to prominence as an actor. He went on either to act in or to direct some 100 films over the next sixty years.

His most widely acclaimed work as a director was, perhaps, his 1951 film *The Sinner*.

Fröhlich was born in Hanover on March 21, 1902. He made his Berlin stage début at the Volksbühne in O'Neill's *The Moon of the Caribbees*, in 1921. However, spurred on by his success in *Metropolis*, he left the stage for the movies.

He appeared in *Asphalt* and *Fire in the Opera House* (1930), *The Love Detachment* (1931), *Gitta Discovers Her Heart* (1932), and *The Rakoczy March* (1933, and which he also directed), among others.

With the coming of the Nazis, his cinematic output rose rapidly. Most of his films were "escapist", and few offended against Nazi ideology.

He met his second wife, the Czechoslovakian actress Lida Arova, on a film set in 1935. It was suggested that Fröhlich slapped the face of the propaganda minister, Dr Josef Goebbels, when the latter, noted for his taste for foreign actresses, began to pay too much attention to Miss Arova.

Fröhlich was banned from film making for a time. But, in an interview after the war, he insisted that the ban had not been because of the alleged face slapping incident (in which there was, he claimed, no truth) but over a mere technical film-making matter.

He left the studios in 1960 after making *Und keiner schämt sich* (And Nobody is Ashamed), switching to television films, and playing elderly rogues. A later success, when he was 80, was in the ten-part serial *The Laurents*.

In 1983, he published his autobiography, *My Life as a Film Hero — Those were the Days*.

His first wife was the operetta star Gita Alpar. He is survived by his third wife, Maria Hajek.

LESLIE THOMPSON

Leslie Thompson, who died on December 20, aged 86, was one of this country's finest jazz musicians.

He was born in Jamaica on October 17, 1901. He came to England in 1919, trained as a military bandsman at the Kneller Hall Army School, and graduated from the Guildhall School of Music in trumpet and 'cello.

He played at the Albert Hall in concerts of classical music, and worked with C. B. Cochran, "Snake Hips" Johnson, and Edmundo Ros, before having his own London band. In the early 1930s he was Louis Armstrong's first trumpeter on Armstrong's first European tour.

Thompson began the war with the Royal Artillery, but soon joined the "stars in battledress" unit, touring here and overseas. Demobbed in 1945, he returned to the West End night club circuit.

In 1954, however, he gave up professional music altogether to become warden of the Alliance Club, a Christian-based London students' hostel. Then, in 1963, he qualified as a probation officer, and worked at Pentonville Prison, where he started up a prison jazz band, playing in it himself. He retired when he was 70, but the governor asked him to continue part-time with his jazz lessons.

Thompson was a devout Christian who read his Bible daily. He was seldom ruffled, and had the gift of getting close to those in distress. He was, for many years, much in demand for church services of whatever hue, playing his trumpet, preaching, and counselling.

Science report

Hydrogen as the fuel of the future

By Andrew Wiseman

Within the next five years, West German specialists should know whether producing electricity from solar energy and hydrogen could become a commercial proposition.

What is claimed to be the world's first experimental plant for hydrogen and electrolytic technology is being built in Neunburg, near the Czechoslovak border. By the early 1990s, West Germany should become the first country to carry out large scale trials on a revolutionary energy system.

The man behind the project is a 75-year-old aircraft designer, Dr Ludwig Boelkow, who heads the Ludwig Boelkow Stiftung. He hopes that the challenge of solar hydrogen, tackled in the past with insufficient funds, will be conquered by the middle of the next century, providing safe energy without affecting the enviroment, and at a much lower cost than that of nuclear power.

In the Neunburg experiment, solar panels, covering an area of 20,000 square metres would first trap solar energy and convert it into 500 kilowatts of electricity. This would be used to split water into hydrogen and oxygen by electrolysis.

The hydrogen would then be stored as a fuel. In the German experiment it will be used subsequently to generate electricity.

The venture will cost 50 million Marks (about £17 million): 35 per cent contributed by the Federal Ministry of Research and Technology, 15 per cent by the federal state of Bavaria, and the balance by a private German firm. Impressed by this project, another West German state (Baden-Wuerttemberg) recently increased its annual budget for research into solar hydrogen technology from two million Marks (£700,000) to 10 million Marks (£3,300,000).

On the face of it, Germany does not appear to be the ideal place in which to trap sunshine. But scientists have worked out that the average annual level of solar radiation in Bavaria amounted to 110 watts per square metre and about 3,300 square kilometres of solar cells would be enough to provide the province's annual electricity needs.

According to them, 11,000 square kilometres of solar panels, coupled to solar hydrogen technology, would generate an impressive 40 per cent of West Germany's annual energy requirements.

"To those who argue that solar hydrogen energy would not be economically viable, Dr Boelkow replies: "The word 'profitable' is a relative concept. . .coal is being subsidized. . .enviromental damage is not being costed. . .the correct price of nuclear energy is still unknown."

As the Neunburg project progresses according to plan, a joint West German/Saudi solar hydrogen enterprise is under construction in Riyadh called Hysolar (hydrogen from solar energy), and the plant will produce hydrogen from desalinated sea water by using solar electricity.

The hydrogen would then be transported to Europe by tankers or in pipelines, as is now being done with oil and gas, to be turned into electricity by the industrialized countries of the continent.

Archaeology

Rescue dig uncovers extravagant burial

By Norman Hammond, Archaeology Correspondent

A prehistoric burial with an Homeric prodigality of oxen has been found in Northamptonshire. The bones from more than a hundred cattle were found covering the interment, recalling the "many shambling oxen with crooked horns" slaughtered at the funeral pyre of Patroclus.

The find, at Irthlingborough, near Wellingborough, was made by Ms Clare Halpin, of English Heritage's Central Excavation Unit, during a rescue dig in advance of gravel extraction: four barrows of the Bronze Age stood on what had been an island in the Nene.

Excavation showed three concentric ditches, from successive enlargements of the barrow. At its centre was a deep grave with a rich burial of the Beaker period of about 2000 BC, with evidence of a hecatomb, an offering of an hundred oxen.

More than 1,000 fragments of animal bone were found covering the burial, and these have been analysed: most of them are ox skulls, from a minimum of 109 animals. Some were from the aurochs, *Bos primigenius*, the native wild cattle of Ice Age Europe, the rest from the smaller domestic species.

The burial had been in a wooden coffin with a timber roof, covered with a stone cairn which was then capped with the animal skulls.

The interment was disarticulated, suggesting that the corpse had begun to rot by the time it was buried, and may have died away from home. The man was accompanied by his long-necked beaker, a personal drinking vessel, a flint dagger, and the Beaker archer's standard equipment of a stone wristguard, a whetstone and an arrowhead.

He also had five buttons made of Yorkshire jet, a boar's tusk, nine flint flakes and an amber ring; three bone spatulae made from animal ribs are thought to have been for leather working. The grave goods were all together by the feet, as though wrapped in a bag.

The importance of the barrow was shown by its later enlargement and the insertion of seven more burials, the most spectacular a cremation accompanied by a bronze dagger.

Source: *Current Archaeology* 106, 331-332.

Services tomorrow

Second Sunday after Christmas

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC 9.30 Mc 11 S Euch, Collegium Regale (Howells), Agnus Dei (Wood in A flat). All ends the world (Joyce). Rev B Hebblethwaite. 3.15 E. Responses (Smith). Bless ye the Lord, in the beauty of holiness (Parker). 6.30 Congregational Carol Service.

YORK MINSTER: 8 8.45 HC 10.15 S Euch, Mass in G (Schubert). In Dulci jubilo (Pearsall). Canon R Hockney. 11.30 M, Collegium Regale (Howells), Benedictus (Rose). Standford in A. A boy was born (Britten). Rev I Ellery. 3.15 E, Stanford in A.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: 8 HC 10.30 M. The service for men (Deane). The first Service (Shepherd). Rev P Bull. 11.30 HC. The Short Service (Tallis). Ashby laile (Anon). Rev J Scott Lord. Nunc Dimittis (Palestrina). Dies Sanctificatus (Palestrina). Rev J Tait.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8, 11.40 HC 10.30 M. Responses (Aylesward). Te Deum (Stanford). Jubilate in B (Britten). All the time (Weelkes). Rev C Dawes. 3, E. Dyson in D. A maiden gentle (Carter). Canon A Harvey. 6.55 Organ recital. 6.15 E. Rev A Lutt.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 HC 11 Euch. Very Rev D L Edwards. 3 E. ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8, 10, 12.15, 6 LM: 11 HM. Very Rev J P Patmore.

CHAPEL ROYAL, St. James's Palace: 8.30 HC. 11.15 S Euch. Dares in E. Canon R S Williamson. QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY: WC2: 11.15 S Euch, Ireland in G. Rev J Shepherd.

TOWER OF LONDON, EC3: 9.15 HC. 11 M, Short Service (Byrd). Behold I bring you glad tidings (Ebdbons). The Chaplain.

TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street, EC4: 8.30 HC. 11.15 MP & HC. Silent Night (de Wargeme). Responses (Rutter). Macpherson in E. A babe lies in the cradle (arr. G T-B & ACD). The Master.

ST CLEMENT DANES (RAF Church) WC2: 9 HC 11 Euch. Mozart in G. Jesu, the very thought is sweet (Victoria). Rev R N Kenward.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Kensington Court Palace: 8.30 HC. 11 S Euch. Bairstow in E flat. Ante lucuferum genitus (Handl). The Chaplain. 3.30 E. When Jesus our Lord (Mendelssohn). Sumsion in G. Peysemot hodie (arr. Holst).

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8, 9.15 LM: 11 HC. The Prince of Peace (W S Lloyd Webber). O ye little flock (Lambert). The Vicar: 6 E & B. Dyson in F. Three Carols. Rev W H Taylor.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 9.30 HC. 11 Rev S Wooster: 6.30 Rev W Tattersall.

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, Old Church Street, SW3: 8 HC. 10 Children's Service: 11 Parish C. Mr J Suddaby. 6 E. Preb C E L Thomson.

HOLY TRINITY, Brompton Road, SW7: 8.30 HC. 11 (1662): 30 HC (ASB). Mr M Coates: 6.30 ES. Mr J Wesley.

HOLY TRINITY, Prince Consort Road, SW7: 8.30, 11 HC. Rev M Bowles.

HOLY TRINITY, Sloane Street, SW1: 8.30, 12.10 HC. 10.30 S Euch. Rev K Yates.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 8.30 HC: 11 M & Euch. Blow in A. Short Service (Batten). Canon J Dales. 6.30 E. Responses (Rose). Magnificat (Shaw). The Boston Setting. Coventry Carol (Leighton). Canon J Oates.

ST CUTHBERT'S, Philbeach Gardens SW5: 10 HC. 11 S Euch. Tertiy in C. Shepherds laud their masses (Rowley). Rev J Vine: 6 E & B.

ST GEORGE'S, Bloomsbury, WC1: 10 Parish C. 6.30 E.

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC. 11 S Euch, Short Service (Batten), Quam pastoris (trad.). Rev G D Watkins.

ST GILES-IN-THE-FIELDS, St Giles High St, WC2: 8, 12, 7.15 HC: 11 MP. Rev P J Galloway: 6.30 EP. Rev P J Galloway.

ST JAMES'S, Garlickhythe, EC4: 10.30 S Euch.

ST JAMES'S, Muswell Hill, N10: 8 HC. 11 Family Service & Baptism: 6.30 HC.

ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly, W1: 8.30 HC. 11 S Euch: 6 EP.

ST JOHN'S, Hyde Park Crescent, W2: 8 HC. 10 Parish Euch. Rev T Harlon: 6.30 Evening Worship. Rev B Callaghan.

ST JOHN'S WOOD CHURCH, NW8: 8 HC. 9.30 Parish C. 11 S Euch. O magnum mysterium (Victoria). Gradual Carol, A New Year Carol (Britten). Sweet was the song the Virgin sang (Berkeley). The Vicar: 6.30 E. Rev Andrew Walker.

ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC. 10 Family C. 11 S Euch. Missa Secunda (Gasser). Sans Day Carol (Rutter). Rev J Hamble.

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 S Euch, Canon J Mansell.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC. 12.30, 7.30, 9.45 Euch. The Vicar: 11.30 MP. Rev S Roberts: 2.45 Chinese Service (HC). Rev R Liu: 6.30 EP. The Vicar.

ST MARY ABBOTS, Kensington, W8: 8, 12.30 HC. 9.30 S Euch. The Vicar: 11.15 M. Rev Gen: 6.30 E. Rev A R Boddy.

ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9, 9.45, 7 LM: 11 HM. O magnum mysterium (Victoria). Resonet in laudibus (Handl). Dr B Horne: 6.15 E & B.

ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 8, 11 HC. Missa Brevis in D (Mozart). Quem vidistis pastores (Victoria). Rev C H Cooke: 6.30 Ministry of Healing. Laying on of Hands. Rev D Heath.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11. 6.30 Rev J H Burns.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15 Rev K G Hughes: 12.20 HC.

CHURCH OF OUR LADY, Leamington Grove, St John's Wood: 10.45 Mass for five voices (Carevoli). In nomen Jesu (Phillips).

FARM STREET, W1: 7.30, 8.30, 10, 12.15, 4.15, 6.15 Lit: 11 HM.

ST CYPRIAN'S, Brunston Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 12.30, 4.30, 7 LM: 11 HM. Mass in D (Mozart). Benedictus qui venit (Schubert): 3.30 V. Hoole hodie (Sweelinck).

ST ETHELREDA'S, Ely Place: 11 O magnum mysterium (Victoria). Jesu dulcis memoria (Victoria).

OUR LADY OF VICTORIES, Kensington High Street, W8: 8, 9, 10, 12.30, 6.30 LM: 11.15 SM. Mass in D (Dvorak). O Jesu Miserissimus (Dubois). Cantique de Racine (Faure).

AMERICAN CHURCH IN LONDON, W1: 11 Rev Ron F Allison.

CITY TEMPLE, Holborn, EC1: 11, 6.30 Rev E Waugh.

CHELSEA METHODIST CHURCH, King's Road, SW3: 11 Rev G Lovell: 6 Covenant & HC. Rev M Ramsay-Hunt.

ST ANNE'S METHODIST CHURCH, W1: 11 Rev K Howcroft.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11. HC. 7 Choral V. Song of the Birth of Jesus Christ (Charpentier). Very Rev R Seaton.

WESTMINSTER CHAPEL, Buckingham Gate, SW1: 11, 6.30 Rev Dr R F Kendall.

WESTMINSTER MEETING SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers), 52 St Martins La WC2. 11: Meeting for worship.

PERSONAL COLUMNS

For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth: so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations. Isaiah 61 : 11

BIRTHS

ADAMS - On December 28th, to Joanna (née Ryle) and Herbert, a son, Robert Nicholas, a brother for Thomas and Katy.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

COPELAND/DYMORE-BROWN - On 1st January 1938, at St. Peters, Earley, Tom and Natalie. Now of Hampstead.

DEATHS

DURNFORD - On December 30th, at Southmead Hospital, Doris Louisa Mary, aged 93, sister of the late Lt. Gen. C.M.P. Durnford, formerly Deputy Head Wyggeston Grammar School, Leicester, beloved aunt and great-aunt of Stephen and Lorna Morse, and their children, Rupert, Melissa, and Toby. Will be missed by many friends. Funeral 2.30 p.m. on Monday January 11th, 1988, at Church of The Good Shepherd, Bishopston, thereafter at Canford Crematorium. Family flowers only, but donations to Guide Dogs for the Blind, c/o funeral directors, R. Davies, 381 Gloucester Road, Bristol 7.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

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DAISY BEE (Black Staff B.T.) sends New Year greetings to friends in Battersea Park and around the world. After ten years devoted Foreign Service she is retiring to the Cotswolds.

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TRUSTEE ACTS

JONES David Anthony otherwise David Anthony Lewis Jones, 41 St Los Avenue, Cheyne Gardens, Chelsea London SW3, died 30th January 1987: particulars to Piper Smith & Basham (Ref J296 MS/SM), 31 Warwick Square, London SW1V 2AF before 10th March 1988

DELLAMURO, Filomena, 20 Denbigh Street, London SW1, died 18 June 1986, particulars to Piper Smith & Basham (Ref MS/SM), Solicitors, 31 Warwick Square, London SW1V 2AF before 10th March 1988.

STEPHENS, Blanche, Evelyn, 120 Riverview Road West, Ewell, Surrey, formerly of 26 Haldane Road, Fulham, London SW6, died 13th May 1987: particulars to Piper Smith & Basham (Ref: MS/SM), Solicitors, 31 Warwick Square, London SW1V 2AF before 10 March 1988.

HODES Charles, 19 Keats Grove, London NW3 died 23rd May 1987. Particulars to Lloyd Cooper (Solicitors as - 7a Grafton Street, London W1X 3LA before 28th February 1988.

TRUSTEE ACTS

LEE Sally of 76 Bryanston Court, George Street, London W1 died on 20th October 1987. Particulars to Clifford Harris & Co., Solicitors of 51 Welbeck Street, London W1M 8AB before 8th March 1988.

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
No. 006761 of 1987
IN THE MATTER OF MACARTHY PLC
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 21 December 1987 confirming the cancellation of the amount of £54,945,686 standing to the credit of the Share Premium Account of the above-named Company was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 22 December 1987.
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HOLIDAYS & VILLAS

Continued from page 14

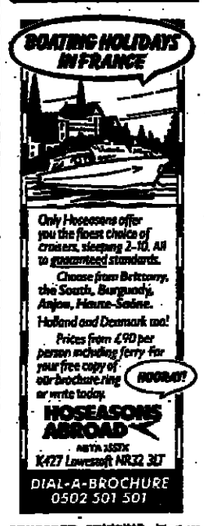
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Sunday 3 Jan 7.30 pm — CLASSICAL FAVOURITES Wren Orchestra Bramwell Tovey (cond) Craig Sheppard (pno) Mendelssohn Overture The Hebrides, Vaughan Williams Fantasia on Greensleeves Grieg Piano Concerto Dvorak Symphony No 9 (From the New World) £12.50 £11.50, £10 £8.50 £5.50 (conc only) Victor Hochhauser/Capital Radio

Sunday 10 Jan 7.30 pm — HITS FROM THE MUSICALS London Concert Orchestra, Michael Reed (cond) Items from Guys & Dolls, Camelot, Showboat, Company, West Side Story, Kiss Me Kate, Paint Your Wagon, Cats, Les Miserables, Chess, Phantom of the Opera, Simon Masterson Smith & Stephen Hill Singers. £12.50 £12.50 £11 £9 £7 £6 £5 Raymond Gubbay

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Tue & Wed 5 & 6 Jan 8 pm — THE HEN PARTY presents Two Nights of Women on the South Bank. W Sutherne songs from the leader of the Poison Girls Hope Augustus blues blues balladeer Donna & Kebab the Greek Frank Chickens Anne Pellen violin & voice The Chuimanchukeys dance group The Rhythm Sisters. £4 (UB40 £3) Speakout South Bank Board

Thursday 7 Jan 8.00 pm — PEGASUS Richard Crossland (conductor) Bach Der Geyst hilft Odeington Missa Fors seulement All seats £2 Pegasus

Thursday 7 Jan 7.45 pm — MOZART FORTEPIANO SERIES The English Baroque Soloists John Eliot Gardiner (cond) Malcolm Bilson (fortepiano) Mozart Symphony No 32, Piano Concerto in C minor K. 491 Symphony No 36 (Linz) £9 £6.50, £4 Monteverdi Choir and Orchestra Ltd

Saturday 9 Jan 7.30 pm — HANDEL'S MESSIAH London Orpheus Choir & Orchestra James Gaddarn (cond) Jacquelyn Fugelle (sop) Christopher Robson (counter-ten) Neil Archer (ten) Alan Fairs (bass) Leslie Pearson (harpsichord) John Birch (organ) £7.50 £6.50 £5 (only) London Orpheus Choir

Sunday 10 Jan 7.45 pm — ACADEMY OF ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS Kenneth Sillito (director) Peter Dixon (oboe) Haydn Harmony Symphony No 44 Mozart Horn Concerto in E flat K. 495 Michael Haydn Concertino in D for horn Britten Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge £9 £6.50 £5 £3.50 Academy Concerts Society Ltd

Tuesday 12 Jan 7.45 pm — MICHAEL NYMAN BAND - Contemporary Music Network. A variety of works by one of the country's most invigorating and accessible composers including music from his well-known scores to Peter Greenaway's popular movies. All seats £5 Students, OAP's £3 The Susan Bain Boards/Arts Council of GB

Wednesday 13 Jan 7.45 pm — HAYDN'S L'INFEDELTA DELUSA (concert perf) Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment Sigiswald Kuijken (cond) Nancy Argenta, Lena Lessons (sops) Christoph Pregardien, Markus Schaeffer (tenors) Stephen Varcoe (bass) First British performance on period instruments £10.50 £11 £9.50 £7 (only) South Bank Board/Dial Records

Friday 15 Jan 7.45 pm — LONDON BACH ORCHESTRA & SINGERS Nicholas Kraemer (cond) Paul Barritt (violin) Lorna Anderson, Margaret Cable, Howard Milner, Michael George Telemann Overture Darmstadt, Vivaldi Spring and Summer (Four Seasons), Bach Magnificat £5.50 £7.70 £8.50 £5.50 £4 London Bach Orchestra Ltd

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Sunday 3 Jan NB: starting time: 4 pm — ENDYMION ENSEMBLE. Director John Whitfield. Prunella Scales/Ian Partridge/Stephen Varcoe. Paris 1660-1730. Poulenc Sonata for clarinet & bassoon, Le Bestiaire. Cocardes. Sonata for horn, trumpet & trombone. Walton: Façade £5, £5, £4, £3

Monday 4 Jan 7.30 pm — RICHARD LUBY baroque & classical violin/RICHARD STONE theorbo / IVOR BOLTON harpsichord / LINDA NICHOLSON fortepiano Sonatas by Marini & Castello (violin/theorbo) Corelli & Geminiani (violin & harpsichord); Schubert: Sonata in A D574, Rondo in B minor D895 £5, £4 £3 £2.50 Jane Gray

Tuesday 5 Jan 7.30 pm — DIVERTIMENTI. Tchaikovsky: Sextet Op 70 "Souvenir de Florence," Lutoslawski: 4 Silesian Melodies Mendelssohn: Octet in E flat Op 20 £5 £4, £3, £2.50

Wednesday 6 Jan 7.30 pm — ANDRAS SCHIFF piano London Pianoforte Series. J.S. Bach: English Suite No 1 in A, English Suite No 3 in G minor, 15 Two-part Inventions, English Suite No 5 in E minor. £7.50, £6.50, £5.50 (all others sold)

Thursday 7 Jan 7.30 pm — BRITTEN STRING QUARTET. Beethoven: Quartet in G Op 18 No 2; Schnittke: Quartet No 3. Schubert: Quartet in D minor D810 'Death and the Maiden' £5, £4, £3, £2.50 Young Concert Artists Trust

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Sunday 10 Jan 11.30 am — THE HANOVER BAND. Director ROY GOODMAN. PHILIPPA DAVIES flute Sunday Morning Coffee Concert. Haydn: Symphony No 48 in F minor 'La Passione', Mozart: Flute Concerto No 1 in G K313, Haydn: Toy Symphony in C Hob II:47. £3 inc prog & coffee - enquiry or request after performance.

Sunday 10 Jan NB: starting time: 4 pm — GABRIELI STRING QUARTET. Chamber Music Series. Haydn: Quartet in F Op 77 No 2, Elgar: Quartet in E minor Op 83, Beethoven: Quartet in B flat Op 130 The Gabrieli Quartet's first London concert with their new leader John Georgiadis. £5, £4 £3 £2.50

Monday 11 Jan 7.30 pm — GLENDA MAURICE mezzo soprano GRAHAM JOHNSON piano. Vaughan Williams: 4 Last Songs; Chanler: 8 Epitaphs, Songs by Wolf, Fauré, Duparc & Marx. £6 £4 £3, £2.50 Ron Gonsalves

Tuesday 12 Jan 7.30 pm — BEAUX ARTS TRIO. Chamber Music Series. Haydn: Piano Trio in E Hob XV 34 Shostakovich: Piano Trio in E minor Op 67, Schubert: Piano Trio in E flat D929 £7.50, £6.50 £5.50, £4

Thursday 14 Jan 7.30 pm — ROGER CHASE viola CLAIRE van KAMPEN piano Benjamin Dale: Romance, Schubert: Sonata in A minor, 'Arpeggione', Bach/Kodaly: Fantasia Cromatica for solo viola: Geoffrey Grey: Viola Sonata: (1st London perf) Vaughan Williams: Romance, Kreisler: Preludium & Allegro £5 £4 £3 £2.50

Friday 15 Jan 7.30 pm — BAROQUE CONSORT OF SINGERS with harpsichord and viola da gamba. Programme includes Purcell: Saul and the Witch of Endor; vocal music by Monteverdi and Purcell. £5, £4 £3 £2.50

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Tomor 3 Jan 7.30pm — PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA Owain Arwel Hughes cond. Stephen Hough piano Dvorak: Carnival Overture Mozart: Piano Concerto No 21 in C Rimsky-Korsakov: Sheherazade £12.50, £10.50, £9.50, £8.50, £5, £3.50

Mon 4 Jan 7.45pm — WILD WEST POPS Royal Philharmonic Pops Orchestra Michael Reed (cond) Medley Bill Intro, Mary Carewe, Lindsay Benson singers Showgirls from El Salon Mexico, Music incl Guns with the Wind, High Noon, The Big Country £12.50, £11.50, £10, £8.50, £6.50, £5.50 Raymond Gubbay Ltd

Tue 5 Jan 7.45pm — ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Jane Glover cond Yvonne Kenny, Penelope Walker, Kenneth Woollam, David Wilson-Johnson, London Choral Society Mozart: Symphony No 39, K543 Beethoven: Symphony No 9 'Choral' £14, £12, £10, £8, £6 Raymond Gubbay Ltd

Wed 6 Jan 7.45pm — LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Sir Colin Davis cond. Murray Perahia piano Stravinsky: Dumbarton Oaks Grieg: Piano Concerto in A minor Sibelius: The Swan of Tuonela, Symphony No 7 £15, £13, £11, £9, £7, £5 SPONSORED BY RANK XEROX

Thu 7 Jan 7.45pm — HUMPHREY LYTTELTON Jazz in the New Year Celebrating 40 years as bandleader with Humphrey Lyttleton and his Band, Mr Acker Bilk & his Paramount Jazz Band and special guest from New Orleans Lillian Boutte, star of 'Ose Mo Time' £11.50, £9.50, £7.50, £5 Norman Meadmore Ltd

Fri 8 Jan 7.45pm — LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA – A Theme with Variations opening concert Sir Colin Davis cond. John Williams guitar Vaughan Williams: Fantasia on a Theme of Thomas Tallis Steve Gray: Guitar Concerto (world premiere) Elgar: Symphony No 1 £13, £11, £9, £7, £5 ONLY SPONSORED BY UNION BANK OF SWITZERLAND

6.30pm — Pre-concert talk by Steve Gray. Admission Free

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Sun 10 Jan 7.45pm — BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Elgar Howarth, Paul Daniel, James Wood conds Jane Manning, Jean Rigby, Philip Langridge, BBC Singers. Birtwistle: The fields of sorrow: Nenia, The Death of Orpheus: On the Sheer Threshold of the Night, The Mask of Orpheus, Act 2 (concert performance)

Mon 11 Jan 7.45pm — LONDON SINFONIETTA Peter Eötvös conductor Birtwistle: Tragoedia; Secret Theatre; Verses for Ensembles

Tue 12 Jan 7.45pm — ENDYMION ENSEMBLE Simon Joly conductor, Sarah Leonard soprano BBC Singers. Birtwistle: Cantata: Entr'actes and Sappho Fragments . . . agm . . .

Wed 13 Jan 7.45pm — BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Peter Eötvös conductor Hakan Hardenberger trumpet Birtwistle: Still Movement, Endless Parade (UK Premiere), Earth Dances

Thu 14 Jan 7.45pm — POPULAR CLASSICS London Concert Orchestra Nicholas Cleobury cond. Philip Fowke piano Prog. inc. Dukas: The Sorcerer's Apprentice Grieg: Peer Gynt Suite Gershwin: Rhapsody in Blue Elgar: Pomp and Circumstance March Ravel: Bolero £12.50, £11.50, £10, £8.50, £6.50, £5.50 Raymond Gubbay Ltd

Fri 15 Jan 7.45pm — MARISA ROBLES Spanish Evening Rossini: Ov 'The Barber of Seville' Falla: Dances from 'The Three Cornered Hat'; Ritual Fire Dance, El Amor Brujo Chabrier: Espaňa Rodrigo: Concierto de Aranjuez (for harp and orchestra) and popular harp solos Victor Hochhauser Ltd in assoc. £12.50, £11.50, £10, £8.50, £6.50, £5.50 with Capital Radio

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FAURE: Pavane Op. 50
RAVEL: Piano Concerto in G, Pavane
BIZET: Symphony in C
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Queen Elizabeth Hall — Friday 5 February 7.45 pm
RAVEL: Mother Goose Suite
SAINT-SAËNS: Cello Concerto No 1 in A minor, Op. 33
FAURE: Elegy in C minor, Op. 24
BERLIOZ: Nuits d'été, Op 7
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Royal Festival Hall — Thursday 18 February 7.30 pm
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RAVEL: Tombeau de Couperin
POULENC: Piano Concerto in C sharp minor
FAURE: Requiem, Op 48
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OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 8 836 3161 CC 240 8258. ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA. Tom't & tues 7.30 The Barber of Seville.

Royal Festival Hall 928 3191 CC 928 8800. Until 16 January. Eves 7.30pm, Mats 3.00pm (28 Dec - 2 Jan incl. & Sats) LONDON FESTIVAL BALLET in THE NUTCRACKER (Schaufuss) Mat: Ruggiero / Armand / Supervia / Jarvis / Norton / Pollard / Maynard / Tom'l: Trugnin / Schaufuss / Bruce / Cee / Cruz / Coote / Pettinelli / Tickets from £4.50

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 240 1066/1911. Shtby tore 836 6903. S CC £5 amphi seats avail on the day. Tom't 7.30 THE ROYAL OPERA L'Italiana in Algeri. Mon 2.30 & 7.30 THE ROYAL BALLET Cinderella. Ballet casting info 01 240 9815.

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BARBICAN HALL

LSO February concerts include

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LSO/Paul Freeman	18 Feb
LSO/de Burgos/Viktoria Mullova	21 Feb
LSO/de Burgos	25/28 Feb
A Theme, with Variations: A celebration of British Music	
LSO/Jeffrey Tate	4 Feb
LSO/Jeffrey Tate/Paul Tortelier	7 Feb
LSO/Richard Hickox/Dream of Gerontius	13 Feb
BBC Symphony Orchestra	20/24 Feb
Oslo Philharmonic/Mariss Yansons	5 Feb
Gidon Kremer/Martha Argerich recital	12 Feb
ECO/Jeffrey Tate	15 Feb
Vienna Boys Choir	17 Feb
Halle Orchestra/Skrowaczewski	26 Feb
Puccini Gala Night	27 Feb
George Melly	29 Feb

BARBICAN THEATRE/THE PIT

RSC — The Wizard of Oz
A Midsummer Night's Dream
Speculators by Tony Marchant
Old Year's Eve by Peter Speyer
Death Watch and The Maids by Genet

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Maurice (15)	5-18 Feb
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THEATRES

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ALBERY 836 3878 cc 379 6565 741 9999 379 4444 240 7200 Groups 836 3962 NICHOLAS LYNDHURST "The standup comedienne of a Laurel or a Keaton SUCH SHEER BIG TALENT" Daily Mail In Larry Shue's New Hit Comedy THE FORIGNER "WONDERFULLY DAFFY" D. Express "The funniest play of the decade" NY Times Eves 8 Mats Thurs & Sat 5

ALDWYCH 01 836 6404/0641 cc 379 6233/741 9999 First call 240 7200 (bkg fee) Eves 7.30. Saturday 5 & 8.30 FOR A LIMITED SEASON ONLY MICHAEL GAMBON BEST ACTOR OF THE YEAR Standard Drama Award In National Theatre revival of A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE By Arthur Miller Directed by Alan Ayckbourn

AMBASSADORS 01-836 6111/2 cc 836 1171. First Call (24 hrs/7 days) 240 7200 (bkg fee). Eves 7.30, Wed mat 3. Sat 4 & 8 Royal Shakespeare Company's LES LIAISONS DANGEREUSES Winner of 4 "BEST PLAY" awards. Some tickets avail Mats NOW BOOKING TO JUNE '88

APOLLO 437 2663 CC 434 3598 CC with bkg fee First Call 24hr/7days 240 7200/CCTB 741 9999/Open All Hours 379 4444 Group Sales 930 6123 "NICELY NERVE-RACKED EVENING" E. Shorter DINSDALE LANDEN CAROL DRINKWATER and JEREMY BULLOCH in DANGEROUS OBSESSION Adapting new thriller by M J Cryer "powerfully applies the tricks of suspense" Times "HOLDS YOUR NERVES AT CUNSPENT—TENSION JUNKIES WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED" D. Mail Eves 8pm. Sat 5.30 & 8.30. Mats Thu 3.00pm

APOLLO 437 2663 CC 434 3598/9 CC with bkg fee First Call 24hr/7 days 240 7200. Open All Hours 379 4444/CCTB 741 9999. JOHN GIELGUD ROSEMARY HARRIS RAY McANALLY in THE BEST OF FRIENDS by HUGH WHITEMORE 67 PERFORMANCES ONLY From Thursday 28 January Tues to Sat at 8.00pm Matinee Sat 3.00pm

APOLLO VICTORIA 96 828 8665 cc 630 6262 Party bkgs 828 6188 CC Open All Hours 379 4444 1st Call 240 7200 K Brown 741 9999 Grps 930 6123 Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.0 "BREATHTAKING" BBC STARLIGHT EXPRESS Music by ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER Lyric by RICHARD STILGOE Directed by TREVOR NUNN SOME SEATS AVAIL THIS WEEK OAP's £5 on Tues mats NOW BOOKING TO SEPT '88

ARTS THEATRE CR Newport St. WC2 836 2132 cc 741 9999 GEORGE BERNARD SHAW'S CANDIDA "Comic through and through" Times. Prevs Jan 6 Opens Jan 12

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CAMBRIDGE THEATRE Earlham St. WC2 Box Office & CC 01-379 5399 (NO BKG FEE), CC 1st Call 24hr/7 day 240 7200 (NO BKG FEE), CCTB 741 9999 (NO BKG FEE) Opens All Hrs 379 4444 (BKG FEE). Group Sales 930 6123 LULU GEORGE COLE JAN HARVEY in PETER PAN Mon to Sat 2.30 & 7.30

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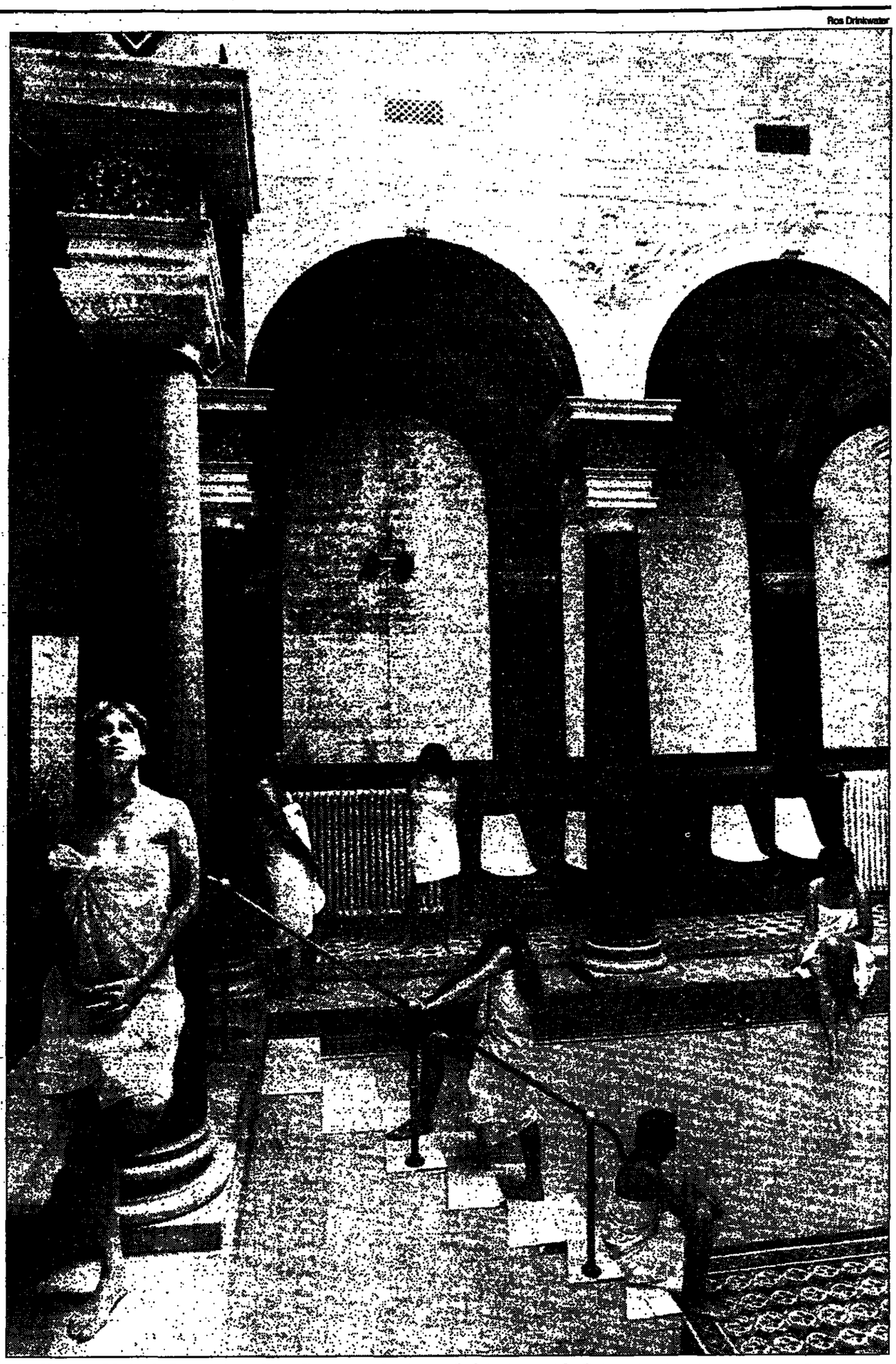
January 2-8, 1988

SATURDAY

A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

THIS YEAR in MARIENBAD

Pics Drinkwater



A cold cure: at Marianske Lazne no one talks or dives or squeals with aquatic delight. They take their treatments seriously, and they believe in them

TRAVEL WITH THE TIMES

The name has changed, of course, but what is really different about the Czech spa town, Jonathan Meades discovers, is the 'reprogramming' of its guests

All the world knows Marienbad: the statues, the match-game, the broken glass, the swooning Seyrig, the voice that incants: "Once more I walk on, once more down these corridors, through these halls, these galleries, this structure from another century — this enormous, luxurious, baroque, lugubrious hotel where endless corridors succeed silent deserted corridors . . . "

All the world knows this Marienbad, Alain Robbe-Grillet's invention brought to a sort of life by Alain Resnais at Nymphenburg near Munich and at another Bavarian schloss, both loci 200 miles south of our west Bohemian spa which was already then, when the film was turned in 1961, called Marianske Lazne.

Marienbad does not exist. Nothing could be less astonishing: after all, this town in a bowl of pine-crenellated hills is a town of the "Sudetenland", which was ignominiously ceded to the Third Reich in 1938 and whose Czech inhabitants were expelled with what they could carry. That it should shun its German appellation is as natural as well water (8-10 degrees Celsius, carbonated, used in the treatment of renal, urological, respiratory, rhinitic, asthmatic, digestive, endocrinal and metabolic problems — among others).

And yet . . . the place is far from innocent of its past. And it is forever contaminated by its filmic representation. This must sound preposterous, the suggestion that Robbe-Grillet's work can somehow be taken as naturalistic or reportorial; but walk along the corridors of the New Baths and you begin to conceive of *L'Année Dernière à Marienbad* as a synthesis of all valetudinarian reveries.

One corridor gives on to another, then a third, and they're all the same: a plastic chair; exposed pipes hurrying to the vanishing point; a static man; another static figure, this one a woman, waiting, like the man, without expectation, with a blue card in her hand. They wait in silence — this is a national talent; they wait for *balneotherapy, hydro-inhalations*, cold hoses, spring gas injections, massages, mud packs. They wait to spray their gums with water as a prophylactic against gingivitis; they wait to swim in rubber caps in silence — at a Czech spa bath the only sound is of lapping water turned white by a cupped hand, a crooked arm.

No one talks or dives or squeals with aquatic delight. They take their treatments seriously, and they believe in them. The advantage that water placebos have over chemical placebos (the sort that is normal in virtually spaless Britain) is the lack of side-effects. It's a low-risk means of therapy, thus analogous with the political system that promotes it and pays for it: it may not get you right but it won't make you iller than you already are; and it's slow, its effects are gradual, it props you up. It could, of course, bore you to death, but it won't kill you.

Scepticism about the efficacy of well water is not confined to the British, though the British are alone in Europe in having no state-owned spas and the British, despite their ever increasing consumption of mineral water, are the one nation that doesn't frequent Czech spas — everywhere you look there is a Kuwaiti or a Russian or a Hungarian.

The doctor who is director of the spa at Marianske, Miroslav Skapik, suggested over lunch (healthy bouillon, unhealthy meat in batter) that there was a schism within the Czech medical profession on the subject of waters. But no one disputes, he said, the therapeutic as opposed to the medical benefits of Marianske Lazne or Karlovy Vary.

As we strolled by a statue of Red Riding Hood, a local girl who found fame in a political allegory, Dr Skapik's medical director (mad boffin crew cut, mad boffin specs with lenses ground from Dimple glass) explained with a giggle — I think it was a giggle — these therapeutic benefits which everyone is agreed about: "Patients get rid of the negative effects of everyday life. You know cybernetics? We reprogramme them, we reprogramme people."

Was I really hearing this? It was like going to France and seeing slit-skirted tarts and winos in berets, it was like going to Spain and being told "mañana". This was the Czechoslovakia of a sinister sitcom, stereotypically horrible. But he looks such a nice mad boffin, I caught myself thinking. Did he really deal in re-educative mud packs, was he really an agent of terror by cold hose?

But no — people come here to enjoy themselves; that, anyway, is how the Czechs see it. There are countless stories and gags about infidelities at spas, drunkenness at spas, dancing the night away at spas. But although people come by themselves — subbed by the state, spouseless, cash-heavy, spruce in new threads, looking for a Good Time — the prevailing air is one of innocence earnestly indulged.

It's all rather like the more sedate sort of British resort a *long time ago — Scarborough* in the Thirties, say. Which is as it should be, for sea bathing stations and wells share a history and a common purpose — albeit a purpose which is now forgotten, to re-create the spirit and recharge the body, i.e. to "reprogramme" it. Not so sinister after all. Common purpose, common pursuits, common architecture. Whether the suffix is *sur mer* or *on sea* or *bad* or *wells* or *spa* doesn't really matter.

All resorts are more like each other than they are like the market or manufacturing towns of their own countries. This year in Marienbad the eternal verities are being reinforced: in the back room of a *fin-de-siècle* hotel, in a bar complex like that of a straitened polytechnic, in the former ballroom of the casino, middle-aged men who understand the sartorial language of popular entertainment (butterscotch suits with black lapels, shirts with frilly fronts) are playing chugging versions of "Volare" and "O Sole Mio" on flimsy electric organs, on metallic carmine guitars.

And newly-met couples enjoying freshly-minted flings gambol with ever deserting inhibition till they dare dance *le slow*, cheek to worker's cheek, wiggling a little the way those reprogrammed into youth always will. It might be Bournemouth, it might be La Baule. And so might the buildings, which are rich, francophile, encrusted with ornament, gay in the old sense. The encrustations are anthropomorphic: caryatids, atlantes, canephorae, herms, *terms*, satyrs, hercules.

They are wrought, these great plaster figures, to look as though they are holding the weight of the buildings they adorn. And the women among them are clearly on steroids, their musculature freakishly bulgy; often they are orgasmically enrapt like Bernini's *St Teresa*, though the modelling owes more to that artist's great predecessor. What we have here is Michelangelo by the tonne. I reckon these writhing figures are an invitation to lubricity, triggers of holiday romance.

The Robbe-Grillet/Resnais film is not the only French representation of this town. There is, too, a song by a marvellous singer, quite unknown in Britain, called Barbara. In her Marienbad there is porphyry, there are jade castles, there are diamonds and black nights, there are aubades; most of all there is her heartbreaking voice and a violin to make one shiver at the thought of lost love. Hers is the Marienbad of the old regime, before the town became a popular utility.

There is an odd and wittingly fostered disjunction between the popular utility and the props of the old regime which are being zealously restored. It is as though a set is being reconstructed for a dramatic spectacle of a different order to the one that was originally played on it. Marianske Lazne is becoming a museum whose one exhibit is its former self: the "colonnades", an airy glass and iron structure of about 1890, where spa guests drink from fountains of spring water, has been done up with a diligence that would delight British conservationists.

The New Baths where Edward VII used to lie in Ottoman splendour will be new again by the time of their centenary in 1993. In the park through the middle of the town, all the trees are made to weep so that at dusk they have silhouettes like old English sheep dogs — this is the only canine facet of the place, there is no excrement on the crew-cut lawns. Everywhere you will find (wooden) scaffolding and houses being given a lick of paint; even the paths in the dark woods are bereft of the usual sylvan decoration of torn tights and discarded balloons. It all seems too good to be true. And when you get to Pilsen you realize that it is.

When you see that great beer city, a Bohemian Burton-on-Trent, you realize why people need spas, why Marianske Lazne is such a haven. Above Pilsen, as you approach it from the west, is a vast mushroom of industrial smog, a mushroom without its stipe supported by some maleficent magic, a mushroom the colour of a nicotined knuckle.

There's more yet: this city of unrelenting terraced palazzi, Florentine in provenance and grandeur, looks like a Piranesian nightmare. It looks like Berlin, 1945, but in the aftermath of a *really* bad war. The air is constellated with black particles. The buildings are sublime in their soot-fleeced dereliction. No wonder the workers of Urquell and Gambrinus and the Skoda car plant crave the water and uninfected air of Marianske; no wonder Dr Skapik emphatically repeated to me that there is no industry within 25 miles of Marianske and that the air is "allergen free". No one who sees Pilsen will ever again take clean air legislation for granted.

No, the baths at Marianske witness now a gamut of industrially related skin diseases that would never have been seen in Marienbad. You see blisters of every size and shade, you see rashes and weals, you see skin which mimics burnt vinyl. And so on. And if this is what their outsides are like, what about their insides? Can water really work on organs which are the *victims of such* atmospheric abuse? Or is what we have here a secular Lourdes?

If it is, it's a handsome one. There can be few nicer looking spots in which to kid yourself that you're doing yourself good. It wills you to think that way, so much so that you'll return, next year, to Marienbad to do yourself good, whether you need to or not. Reprogramming is a process as endless as the corridors.

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SPAS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA:

Czechoslovakia has 37 spas visited by about 300,000 people a year, of whom more than 10 per cent come from outside the country. CEDOK (the Czechoslovakian tourist organization) at 17/18 Old Bond Street, London W1X 4RB — 01-629 6058 for independent travellers and general inquiries, 01-491 2666 for package bookings — has detailed information on individual spas.

Mariánské Lázne, the country's second largest spa after Karlovy Vary, specializes in the treatment of "painful vertebral syndrome, obesity, gout, diseases of the respiratory tract, urinary tract and kidneys" using carbonic, alkaline, saline and ferrous waters, and mineral gas. Allow about £40 a night for full board and treatments, £135 for a return APEX flight with British Airways (01-897 4000) or Czechoslovak Airlines. Taxi transfers from Prague to the spa are expensive at £74.50 each way but there are buses. Cedok's tour operating arm offers packaged holidays at three spas, Karlovy Vary (Carlsbad), Jachymov, and Piestany. Prices for 14 days (the minimum), inclusive of flights, accommodation in a "first class sanatorium", full board, medical examination and all treatments and medicines prescribed, is from £789. The price drops by £100 for escorts not taking the waters, and rises £109 for single room supplements.

SPAS IN THE REST OF EUROPE

The Austrians are less coy than their neighbours in describing therapies — "bog baths and local treatment with curative bog" says one entry for numerous resorts with tell tale names like Alpenmoorbad, and Moorbad St. Felix. Their English language brochure *Nature the Healer* pictures patient/holidaymakers of a certain age and girth, too regular teeth and lots of laugh lines.

The Austrian National Tourist Office, 30 St. George Street, London W1R 9FA. (01-629 0461) offers information. In Austria treatment, sports facilities and accommodation are separately priced. Rooms in private houses and treatments booked separately in the big spa hotels offer opportunities for cutting costs.

The list of French spas reads like a tasting for bottled waters — Vichy, Vittel, Evian, and their literature is peopled with the youthful models the mineral water people use to advertise their wares — lissom girls who are plainly too perfect to need the mudpacks.

French spas, of which there are more than 100 scattered all over the country, include Brides-les-Bains (echoes of those notorious murders which scandalized Victorian England). They are less brazen in their therapeutic claims than those of other European countries.

The French Government Tourist Office, 178 Piccadilly, London W1 (01-491 7622) has a variety of useful literature including a pamphlet *France Pays de la Santé* which lists the treatments offered by all the spas. Beauty and stress treatments are popular and some of the resorts will sell *forfaits* for treatments on the ski-pass and sports package principle.

As an example, a two star hotel in Vichy charges from £880 for a 10 day stay on half board with three individual treatments a day, resort transport, and access to sports facilities.

Italian spas outnumber the French by at least two to one, and include another name of mineral water fame, San Pellegrino. Their powers and attractions are generously covered in *Atlante delle Terme Italiane* from the Italian State Tourist Office, 1 Princes Street, London W1R 8AY (01-408 1254). Treatments are sold separately and also on season tickets and are in addition to accommodation.

Germany has a whole alphabet of spas from Bad Abbach to Bad Zwischenahn, and the German National Tourist Office, 61 Conduit Street, London W1. (01-734 2600) has information of many of them. Treatments are individually priced and not generally packaged with accommodation. Typical treatment prices at Bad Reichenhall start with inhalations from £1.50, rising to £10 per treatment for underwater massage.

Shona Crawford Poole

هكذا عن الاصل

TRAVEL 1

Freedom in the air

This year the Jamaicans celebrate 150 years of their emancipation from slavery. Shona Crawford Poole joined them

When the airwaves were monitored by radiograms of polished walnut we captured them by twiddling a knob. It sent a pointer skidding through the stations – not push button numbers in kHz, but great cities, Berlin, Paris, Hamburg – and it sounded as if the whole world behind that softly glowing panel was having one hell of a good party.

It was a noise I had forgotten until I found myself in a startlit garden in Kingston, Jamaica, on a Saturday night. The lights of the town crowded bright close to the sea and thinned through the higher, leafier suburbs. In the encircling hills they twinkled sparsely, pulsing, it seemed, in time with the broken throb of music amplified to the freedom of a tropical evening. Distant parties vied with closer revels. And over all of them Kingston's dogs could still be heard, one neighbourhood's pack setting off the guardians of an adjoining territory.

Sunday morning sunshine showed TV satellite dishes rim to rim in suburban gardens. They served trim houses with serious security bars posing as wrought iron tracery.

The "gee-gee", Sir Florizel Glasspole, drove in his Governor General's Austin Princess to Spanish Town, the former capital. At the Cathedral of St Jago-de-la-Vega he listened to the Right Rev Neville de Souza, Lord Bishop of Jamaica, deliver him a political sermon peppered with stuff about the "corporate psyche" and "iconoclasm", straight over the heads of a full house gathered to celebrate the 75th anniversary of scouting in the locality.

When he had finished the congregations sang "Onward Christian Soldiers" with un-Anglican vigour and tunefulness. Afterwards the gee-gee and the bishop stood together on the steps outside.

They went on to the Rodney Memorial on Spanish Town's Square of Georgian brick, constructed in the heyday of the sugar trade. Admiral George Rodney, as thanks for saving the West Indies from French domination, was sculpted hugely in marble. He wears the dress of a Roman emperor which "apparently" (said my guidebook, sounding surprised) "was an artistic convention of the day".

Across the square in the Jamaican Peoples Museum of Craft and Technology I stood on something crunchy and lifted my foot from the remains of a burly spider. From next door came the belting swing of the Lord's praises being sung by All Saints Apostolic Church. They beckoned me in with smiles but I was afraid I would never get out.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the emancipation of Jamaica's slaves shipped to the island from Africa in their tens of thousands, first by the Spaniards and later by the English. Of the earlier Arawaks there is little trace but a legacy of language – hurricane, hammock, tobacco. In Port Antonio, the original north coast destination of banana-boat travellers, hurricane lamps and hammocks are everyday wares. Pottering through the town market in search of a nutmeg grater I was passed from stall to stall by laughing higglers perched amid the heaps of scarlet ackee with their scrambled egg insides.

Ackee and saltfish, the national dish and passion, was in the news. The *Daily Gleaner* reported that limited supplies of salted cod "have appeared" on supermarket shelves at a subsidized 55p a pound. A leading article in the same edition said of child abuse: "In Jamaica we have enough to make our heads hang in shame." It quoted over 1,000 girls under 14 giving birth over the past 10 years in Victoria Jubilee Hospital. "Between 1984 and 1986," it said, "the Kingston and St Andrews Corporation had some 90 children, aged nine years and under, treated for venereal diseases".

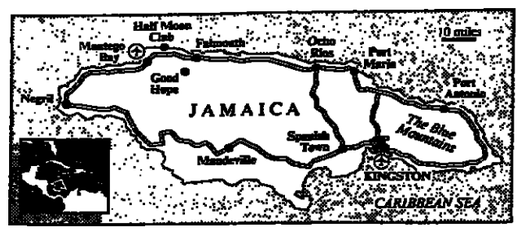
With tough stuff like that to digest I liked the Half Moon Club at Montego Bay for delivering the Daily Gleaner to all its guests, even if very few of them read it with breakfast. They were there in the smart resorts of Mo' Bay and Ocho Rios for the Caribbean island fantasy of sun and beaches and romance; for the raft rides, watersports and calypso cabarets which flourish as if reggae had never happened.

Jamaica does all that with more style and warmth than most places.

It is no suprise that Jamaicans are ambivalent about the relics of the island's history, the vast sugar plantations with their great houses and the decaying heritage of 18th century buildings in faded towns like Falmouth. Even Firefly, Noel Coward's one-bedroomed house of more recent vintage – his many visitors slept down the hill in his first Jamaican hideaway – moulders on its Port Maria vantage point, so high that the turkey buzzards soar past at eye level.

There was nobody else about to break the magic of Greenwood Great House near Falmouth. Clocks ticked quietly and jalousies creaked in the wind. Looking out to sea from a veranda wide enough to see the curve of the earth, I felt sure I knew the isolation of waiting for a ship to break the horizon.

Even more haunting is the evocatively named Good Hope, built inland from Falmouth in 1755 and a living, lived-in museum. Patrick Tenison's grandchildren run on the polished orange wood floors, among the old hurricane shades and their toppling candlesticks. The plantation ranches cattle and grows bananas. It reaches as far as the eye can see back into the wooded hills and at sunset it is unimaginably beautiful.



TRAVEL NOTES

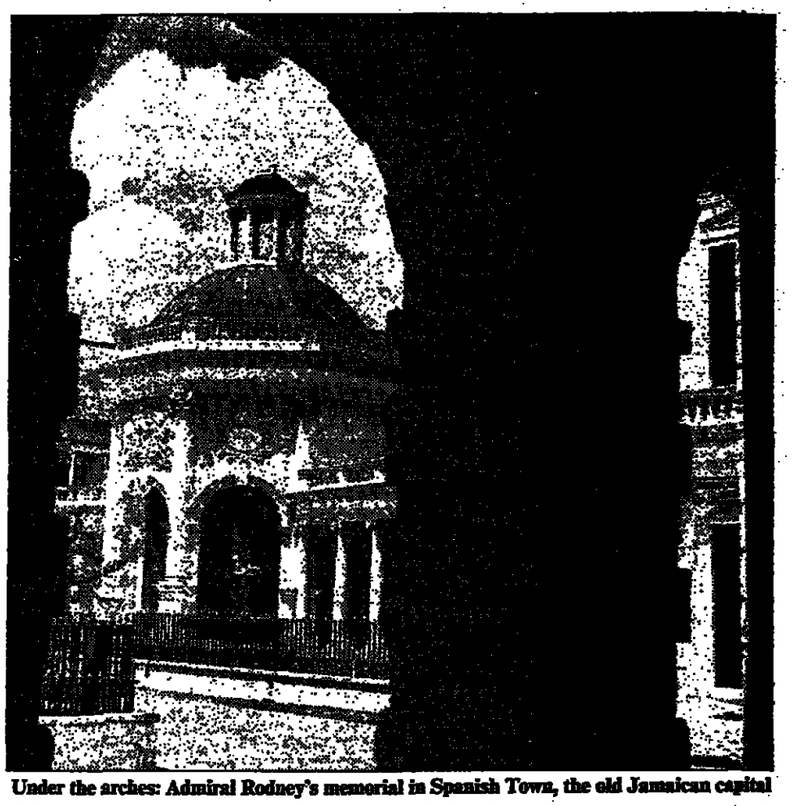
British Airways flies to Montego Bay and Kingston from £419 Apex return. First class £2,722. Reservations (01-897 4000).

The Jamaica Tourist Board, 50 St James's Street, London SW1A 1JT, (01-493 3647) offers general information and a list of UK tour operators featuring Jamaica. The specialist operators are Caribtours (01-581 3517), Kuoni (0306-885044), Thomson Holidays (01-387 9321), and Tradewinds Faraway Holidays (01-734 1260).

In Kingston I stayed at one of the Inns of Jamaica, the very agreeable **Mayfair Hotel**. From £134 per person a week, room only, bookable through Dream Islands of the World (01-253 2662).

The immaculately run **Half Moon Club** in Montego Bay, from £114 per day, per couple on half board; and the **Plantation Inn** at Ocho Rios, £105 per day on the same basis, are members of the Elegant Resorts of Jamaica group, bookable here through Windotel (01-730 7144). **Good Hope** at Falmouth will operate as a country inn from early 1988 from £60 a day per person on full board (0101-809 854 3289).

Insight Guides: Jamaica (£9.95) is an excellent all-round introduction.



Under the arches: Admiral Rodney's memorial in Spanish Town, the old Jamaican capital

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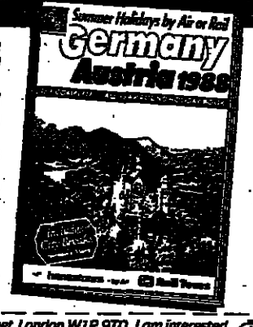
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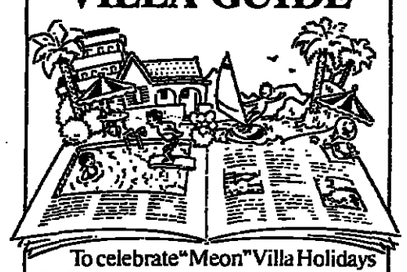
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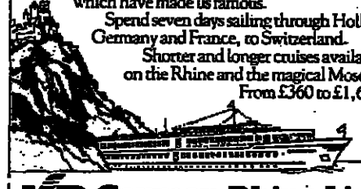
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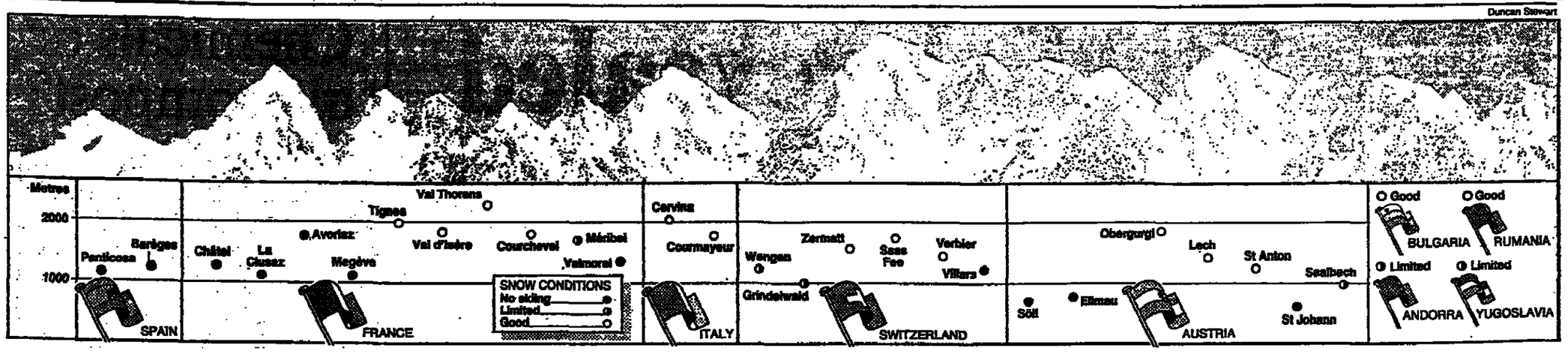
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Continued on page 11

TRAVEL 2



Where to go for the snow

As the Christmas skiers return to Britain with tales of woe and no snow, Shona Crawford Poole, Travel Editor, presents a guide to conditions at the most popular resorts — and finds out how the operators are compensating clients

Disastrous is the only word to describe the start of this year's ski season. Melting snow has closed winter sports resorts scattered across Europe. Sunshine and unseasonally high temperatures mean that thousands of skiers are being bussed from green villages to higher resorts which still have adequate snow cover, bringing crowds, queues, and ice as well as extra expense.

Three skiers have died off piste in Val d'Isere this season. Falls on steep icy slopes are so dangerous that the bar-stool talk is of pisteurs following trails of blood. Yet these high French resorts have some of the best conditions around. Pressure on the high ski areas is increasing as conditions deteriorate elsewhere. Already the plug has been pulled on a deal which allows skiers with La Plagne and Les Arcs ski passes a day's skiing in Tignes and Val d'Isere.

In France it was reported this week that of 160 ski areas surveyed, only 20 have lifts operating. Half of the country's 10,000 ski instructors have been laid off and lift companies report that they have already lost at least 15 per cent of their season's turnover.

Austria is badly hit, too, with no skiing at three popular resorts and limited facilities open in many more. Thomson Holidays, is bussing 400 clients daily from the single resort of Söll. As Justin Fleming, speaking for the Association of Independent Tour Operators, admitted: "I don't think anyone is getting very good skiing anywhere." A Bladon Lines spokesman said: "It must be simply awful if you are a beginner." Crystal's managing director Peter Dyer spoke of Kirchdorf in Austria covering its nursery slopes with lorry loads of snow to give beginners a gentle start, and of a traffic jam of German cars heading home early from Saalbach.

The skiing operators, like the skiers booked to travel this weekend, remain optimistic that more snow will fall very soon. There is general dismissal of the weathermen's forecast of no significant snowfall where it is most needed for at least a week — "if they couldn't tell us about the 'hurricane' the evening before . . ." I must have heard it 20 times.

No one wants to think what next week will be like if our weathermen are right and conditions get worse before they get better. The end of continental school holidays will give the tour operators more scope for offering their clients a chance to move to resorts with better snow. But there was little sign this week of the last minute bookings which are traditionally a healthy proportion of the industry's January business.

Of course the overall picture is not one of unrelieved gloom. The majority of holidaymakers are making the best of difficult conditions and there are many reports of wholehearted co-operation between tour operators, local tourist offices, ski schools and lift companies to ensure that everyone enjoys the best possible skiing available.

The Association of British Travel Agents has had no complaints so far of dissatisfaction with the tour operators' handling of the snow shortage. People are talking to the companies directly to clarify conditions for bussing, and payments in case of piste closure. These vary widely and the experience of skiers returning this weekend may lead holidaymakers to compare more closely their "snow promises" and cancellation penalties.

SPORTING CHANCES: AN UP-TO-THE-MINUTE GUIDE TO EUROPE'S WINTER RESORTS

FRANCE

Châtel (1200m): most operators were bussing skiers out of this Portes du Soleil resort to **Verbier**, 90 minutes away in Switzerland. Bladon Lines alone has been moving 100 clients a day.

La Clusaz (1100m): the tourist office has been arranging coaches to **La Plagne (1800m)** and charging £30 a day for a package of transport, a lift pass and all-day instruction at La Plagne. VFB's rep is refunding pre-paid La Clusaz ski passes to arriving clients.

Avoriaz (1800m): another broken link in the Portes du Soleil circuit, with skiers being bussed to a variety of resorts including **Méribel**, which has its own problems, and **Chamonix (1035m).**

Megève (1100m): has no skiing.

Tignes (2000m): quite good skiing all over, but icy and big crowds from other areas. The resort is very icy and one tour operator has six clients in hospital.

Val d'Isère (1850m): acceptable skiing over 2100m, but dangerous because of rocks. Good skiing on the Tignes glacier too. No skiing down to the village.

Val Thorens (2300m): some of the best skiing available in the highest area of the Trois Vallées circuit. Thomson was taking clients here by taxi from Les Menuires in Christmas week.

Courchevel (1850m): acceptable skiing above the resort, but crowded with skiers from other areas.

Méribel (1700m): very limited skiing. Supertravel has been bussing skiers from chalets high in the village to the base lifts linking with Courchevel.

Valmorel (1400m): Thomson is bussing its Valmorel clients to Courchevel.

ITALY

Cervinia (2005m): as good as it comes with 160cm of snow at the top and 40cm at the bottom. All lifts are open and there is access as usual to Zermatt across the border in Switzerland.

Courmayeur (1230m): poor piste skiing but good spring snow conditions off piste in the mornings. Good, if dull skiing on the glaciers on the Mont Blanc side.

SWITZERLAND

Wengen (1270m): one of the worst hit of the major resorts. A few lifts open intermittently over the last week. Thomson was paying out £25 a day under its ski promise to Wengen clients during Christmas week. Some skiers have been bussed to nearby **Mürren (1640m).**

Grindelwald (1040m): very limited skiing over 2,200m. Next week when the continental skiers gone home, it should be feasible to bus Jungfrau region skiers to the Les Diablerets glacier.

Zermatt (1620m): conditions on the glacier are good and there is much skiing above 2500m. But the lower slopes are icy

Saas Fee (1800m): has good high altitute skiing on the Faeglatscher glacier and is reported to be more crowded than Zermatt.

Verbier (1500m): has no snow in the village. There is good skiing on the top at Lac des Vaux and Mont Fort but the crowds are described as ridiculous

Villars (1300m): Inghams has been bussing skiers to the Les Diablerets glacier. Some clients have opted for the £20 payment under the company's snow promise.

AUSTRIA

Söll (700m): has run out of skiing and operators are bussing their clients up the road to **Westendorf (790m)** and **Scheffau (750m),** both of which are now very crowded as a result.

Ellmau (820m): shares Söll's predicament and solutions.

Obergurgl (1930m): good skiing is reported right into the village.

Lech (1450m): plentiful snow and good conditions still prevail in the upper skiing areas

St Anton (1300m): acceptable conditions on the higher ski slopes.

St Johann in Tirol (650m): has no skiing. Operators are bussing skiers to **Leogang** which has connections with . . .

Saalbach (1000m): conditions are reported fair on the higher slopes, and poor lower down, but most runs open.

ANDORRA

Soldeu (1800m): *the tour companies reps have been seen shovelling snow on to the drag runs to keep the resort going.*

PYRENEES

Panticosa (1184m): Thomson is bussing its clients to the limited skiing still available in **Formigal (1500m)** 20 minutes away and the westernmost resort in the Spanish Pyrenees.

Barèges (1250m): Thomson is bussing to the northfacing slopes of nearby **Cauterets (930m),** also in the French Pyrenees.

BULGARIA

Snow conditions are on the good side of skiable and temperatures less destructively high than in more westerly areas.

RUMANIA

Inghams report conditions good and the resorts fully booked.

YUGOSLAVIA

Again the resorts are fully booked but skiing is limited with some runs shut and ice widespread.



No-snow bonus: hikers celebrate reaching a mountain restaurant usually closed in January

Skiing — at a high price

Thousands of disappointed skiers will be arriving back in Britain this weekend with terrific tans, and memories of crowds and chaos. Ears on the charter flights back will be burning to catch all the details of who charged who for what in hastily cobbled together transport, lift-pass and ski school arrangements made by the tour operators' reps in the resorts over Christmas and New Year holidays.

Most generous with its no-skiing compensation is the largest of the skiing operators Thomson Holidays which pays £25 a day. Inghams, next in the league on both counts pays £20 a day, Thomas Cook £15, and Enterprise £10. Despite the skiing shutdown in so many resorts, payments appear to have been made to only a handful of skiers who were dissatisfied with bussing arrangements, or for whom none could be made.

However many operators, including big name specialists like Bladon Lines and Supertravel offer no compensatory payments.

Charges for alternative skiing arrangements also show up big differences between the mass market operators and those which cultivate a more exclusive image. Thomson, Inghams, Thomas Cook and Enterprise provide free transport to alternative resorts. Many other companies charge. Bladon Lines could give no details of bussing deals, but their competitors report fares of £8 a day on one run.

Large companies also appear to offer most help with ski pass and ski school transfers. Thomson arranges swaps to the new resort at no extra cost. Thomas Cook provides additional lift passes "as considered appropriate by the ski school" to those who have booked its learn-to-ski weeks. Enterprise transfers lift passes pre-booked in the UK.

Some companies make no "snow promises", and those that are published in the brochures are not very easily compared. Bladon Lines, for instance, offers to move chalet clients in poor snow areas to empty beds in its better-off resorts. But last week there were no empty beds to send its Châtel and Avoriaz skiers to, and those who opted for bussing paid for their own transport and any additional lift tickets and ski lessons.

Cancellation penalties are another area of policy difference between skiing operators. For cancellation between one and fourteen days before departure a majority of tour companies demand payment of 60 per cent of the holiday cost. But not all. Some require 100 per cent payment for cancellations made two full weeks before scheduled departure. Not surprisingly, remarkably few would be skiers have cancelled. The vast majority booked to fly out this weekend are still hoping for snow.

WHAT WILL THE WEATHER DO?

● The London Weather Centre says it is "pestered with calls" from skiers hoping for big-dump-soon forecasts. I was unable to extract that kind of prediction from our weathermen. Continental weather forecasters seem to be more optimistic.

London is forecasting no hope of long term persistent snow until the middle of next week. Temperatures are expected to drop from around next Tuesday, which would allow snow falling in colder conditions at low level resorts to last. But until the current unseasonally high temperatures go down and stay down, any snow falling will quickly melt. The high level resorts now enjoying the best conditions will benefit from all new snow.

● As the meteorologists explain it, the exceptionally cold weather which brought huge snowfalls to north America is pushing warm westerly air further into Europe than usual. This warm air is fending off the cold, snow laden northerly air-streams the Alps are waiting for, and until the pattern changes, there will be no lasting improvement in conditions.

France's specialized mountain weather centres at Chamonix, close to the Italian border and at Bourg St Maurice, predict snowfalls tonight down to 1500 metres. There are also warnings of "slight" avalanche danger between 2800 metres and 3500 metres on exposed slopes.

● Our snow expert Bill Burroughs, reporting from Val d'Isère, says: "Only those resorts with skiing on or around glaciers can offer decent snow. Lower down, where cover remains, a combination of two weeks of warm sunny weather and heavy use have compacted even the easiest runs into demanding, icy skating rinks.

"The prospect of snow in the next few days offers only limited salvation. It will take more than is currently forecast to build up a decent base in most resorts. More important, where it falls on existing icy surfaces it will be absolutely essential to heed local warnings about the dangers of avalanches."

Events to watch

January is the time for some major skiing events, though the lack of snow has forced at least one of the great downhill classics — Garmisch — over the border to Val d'Isère. Similarly the Women's World Cup Grand Slalom has been moved from Megève to Tignes:

FRANCE
Les Arcs: Second International Week of Monoski and new skiing techniques, Jan 9-16.
Courchevel: Spanish Ski Grand Prix, Jan 7. Nordic Jump competition, Jan 10.
Tignes: Women's World Cup Grand Slalom, Jan 5.
Flaine: European University Ski Trophy, Jan 6-9.
La Plagne: Downhill training organized by the Club des Sports, Jan 6-10. J.P. Broche Memorial Downhill, Jan 10.
Val d'Isère: Men's World Cup Downhill and Super-G, Jan 9-10.

AUSTRIA
Mayrhofen: Floodlit Cross-country ski race, Jan 6.

SWITZERLAND
St Moritz: *2nd Pontresina* Cross-country skiing Grand Prix, Jan 9. Swiss four-man bob Championships, Jan 9-10.
Les Diablerets: Women's World Cup Downhill and Giant Slalom, Jan 9-10.

ITALY
Madonna Di Campiglio: Volvo Ski Show, Jan 5-6.

Peter Hankey

Free and easy in Paris

TRAVEL NEWS

With a boulangerie, charcuterie and fromagerie on every other street corner, self-catering in Paris can be a more attractive choice than living in a hotel. Short breaks, from only four nights, are available from the French Travel Service (01-568 8442).

The company offers modern studios and larger apartments in two locations — at Les Halles in Central Paris close to the Pompidou Arts Centre and the Forum des Halles shopping complex; and less centrally at Pont de Neuilly. For two sharing a studio flat at Les Halles for four nights and travelling by rail, prices start at £149 each. Supplements for air travel add from £27 a person.

● More than £500 million worth of new investment in domestic tourism comes on line in time for the summer season, according to the English Tourist Board. The money is being spent on resorts, hotels, and new facilities for the 35 million Britons a year who spend their holidays in England.



Choice: the Pompidou Centre

The board's main free holiday brochure *England Holidays '88* is out now. Also newly available are its four *Where to Stay '88* guides. *England '88 — Hotels, Guesthouses, Motels and Universities* (£4.95 plus £1.25 P&P), and *England '88 — Farmhouses, Bed and Breakfast, Inns and Hostels* (£3.95 plus 95p P&P), both feature the national crown classification scheme. The other two guides deal with holiday homes and centres and with camping and caravan parks. Orders to the English Tourist Board, Department D, 4 Bromells Road, London SW4 0BJ.

Other areas of improved cover include emergency chauffering, now unlimited; and vehicle collection cover which is doubled to £500.

A month's vehicle and travel security cover costs £34.50. Personal security cover for the same period is £13.80, and there is a new winter sports package covering equipment, injury or illness from £12.80 for up to five days. (0256-20123 ext. 23328).

US robot goodbye

If automatic video checkout while tucked up in the privacy of your hotel bedroom is the timesaver you have been waiting for, The Hotel Inter-Continental, 48th Street, Manhattan is the place to go for it.

The system, called Spectradyne, links guest televisions to the hotel computer. It allows guests to review their mounting hotel bills and pick up messages on the television screen. (0101 212 755 5900).

A trouble shared

Reimbursement of emergency labour costs is the claim made most frequently under the AA's 5-star Continental motoring insurance scheme, and for 1988 benefit is being increased from £80 to £100.

Helping hand

Increasing the choice of holidays for disabled travellers, Manchester tour operator Boswell & Johnson (061-832 1673) has brought out a new programme *Worldwide Holidays for The Disabled.*

A fully escorted 10 day tour based at the Holiday Inn, Orlando, Florida, for example, costs £865. A week in Malta on half board starts at £151.

TRAVEL BOOKS

● *The Natural History Of Britain's Coasts* by Eric Soothill and Michael J. Thomas (Blandford Press, £16.95) could become the family bible of seaside holidays at home. Part field guide, part guide book, it identifies sand-dune plants like prickly saltwort, and sea ragwort, sorts out one grebe from another, and offers a seaweed identikit. Dividing the text into three sections exploring shorelines of different types, the authors explore the relationships between land and sea and all the living things that thrive there.

● *The Scandinavian Guide 1988* edited by Peter Cowie (The Tantivy Press; £8.50), contains an expanded business section. Articles reviewing industrial and political change, and cultural and sporting activity brief the occasional visitor on topical concerns.

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OUT AND ABOUT

OUTINGS

FUNDAY: Events for children of all ages. Also two family concerts this weekend — today, New Year Children's Special with Jonathan Cohen and the LSO, 3pm. Tomorrow, Teddy Bears' Concert with stories, music by the London Concert Orchestra hosted by Colin Baker (ex-Doctor Who). Barbican Centre, London EC2. Box Office (01-638 8891). Funday — today 10.30am to 4pm. Admission 50p. New Year Concert today 3pm. Adult £4.50, child £2. Teddy Bears' Concert tomorrow 3pm. All tickets £5.80 (£4.80 for bear carriers).

"CHILDHOOD": Opening day of Sotheby's exhibition in aid of Save the Children. Dolls houses, rocking horses, teddy bears, children's clothes, portraits and photographs. Sotheby's, 34 & 35 New Bond Street, London W1 (01-493 8080). Today until Jan 27, Mon to Sat 10am to 5pm. Sunday 2-5pm. Entrance to exhibition free. Catalogue in aid of Save the Children fund, £10.

THE TEENY WEENY HAIRY FLEA SHOW & OTHER OPTICAL WONDERS: For children and families interested in natural history and Victorian inventions.
Museum of London, London Wall, London EC2 (01-600 3699). Show today in lecture theatre, 1pm. Tickets at door. Adult £1, child 50p. Victorian entertainers today, tomorrow, 2-5pm in the Victorian Gallery. Free. Entrance to museum also free.

CHILDREN'S NEW YEAR CONCERT: A programme of carols, music and poetry in the Orangery in which children and family audiences are invited to join.
The Iveagh Bequest, Kenwood, Hampstead Lane, London NW3 (01-348 1286). Today, 4pm. Tickets £1 at the door.

NATURAL HISTORY ENTERTAINMENT: Fast-moving children's shows — a mixture of puppetry, quizzes, music and slides.
Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 (01-589 6323). Today, "Bird Show", 11am and 2.30pm; "Jungle Show" 1pm. Tomorrow, "Bird Show", 2pm, "Jungle Show", 3.30pm. Adults £2, child 5 -15 £1. Under fives free.

57TH MODEL ENGINEER EXHIBITION: Demonstrations, displays, rides, films and lectures.
Wembley Exhibition Hall, Wembley. Today until Jan 9, 10am to 7pm daily, except Jan 7 and Jan 9, 10am to 9pm. Adult £3.75, child £1.50.

Judy Froshaug

Starfish revealed

Mark Pepper

The former home of architect Sir John Soane has been restored to its former glory. Nigel Andrew looked inside



Newly uncovered: Soane's distinctive "starfish" ceiling in the library, exquisitely patterned with trellis work and flowers

Architect Sir John Soane has never been more popular at any time since his death 150 years ago and 1987 has proved to be the year of the Soanic boom. There have been exhibitions, events and eulogies galore, and on the exact anniversary date — January 27 last year — a new Soane house was opened to the public.

Pitshanger Manor, the architect's country villa, now backs on to a municipal park and faces the grassy triangle of Ealing Green. Soane built it as a family home in which his two sons could soak up the aesthetic atmosphere and develop naturally into architects. That didn't work out, and both sons went to the bad. But it was in this house that Soane enjoyed his best years, a succession of "Gothic scenes and intellectual banquets" — and of important commissions.

For many years Pitshanger served as a public library and that is probably why it survived with so little serious damage done. When the library moved out — to the nearby Broadway Centre, where its issue figures have trebled — Ealing Council began a programme of restoration. The aim was to get the whole house as near as possible to what it was in Soane's day; and that long process is still under way.

Two downstairs rooms are virtually completed, and looking very fine. The Library has one of Soane's distinctive "starfish" ceilings, newly uncovered. It is exquisitely patterned with trellis work and floral sprays, and there are very Soanean mirrored niches around the walls. In the Breakfast Room the original painted marble effect has been restored — a surprise discovery this, as Soane had planned a blue and yellow scheme — and another grand ceiling opens on to a circle of painted sky.

The rest of the house gives many hints of former glories, but Soane's dramatic colour and lighting schemes have yet to be recreated. No doubt they will be, for the Pitshanger Museum is still evolving. Plans even extend to remodelling the grounds.

Meanwhile, you have only to examine the virtuoso spatial effects achieved in the entrance hall and stairwell to appreciate why Soane's architectural stock is so high. Pitshanger is chamber work compared to the full-blown symphony of the astonishing Soane Museum on Lincoln's Inn Fields. But no Soane enthusiast should fail to visit it. And remember, it is going to get better and better.

Pitshanger Manor Museum, Walpole Park, Ealing, London W5. Open Tues-Sat 10am-5pm. Admission free. The house also contains a unique display of Martinware pottery.



Pitshanger Manor, Soane's Ealing villa, built for his sons to soak up the aesthetic atmosphere

IN THE GARDEN

Chemicals or old compost?

Despite the advancement of pesticides, Francesca Greenoak still believes the answer to healthy plants lies in the soil

From this month, almost every gardener in Britain is affected by new legislation. We are now under a legal obligation to comply with The Control of Pesticides Regulations which determine the products to be sold in shops, and how they are used and handled.

In practice, if you buy from a responsible shop or garden centre only approved products should be for sale but if you made a bulk buy in the past, check it is still acceptable. The private gardener is now responsible for following the instructions explicitly and taking all the precautions strictly as listed on the label. Remember also that you must not mix two products , or put any pesticide in any container other than the one it was bought in.

Hard information on pesticides is excessively difficult to come by in this country, but The Soil Association's booklet *How Does Your Garden Grow?* lists the active ingredients of garden chemicals. It carries "black spot" information associated with each type such as whether it is banned or restricted in other countries or suspected of causing cancer or genetic defects. (Available from the Soil Association, 86 Colston Street, Bristol BS1 5BB, price 50p plus 30p p&p).

It does seem that a large number of gardeners are turning away from chemicals and looking at other ways to keep plants healthy, and particularly at conditioning the soil which is why some companies now offer a full range of organic fertilizers.

Here is a quick reference to organic soil conditioners and fertilizers.

Calcified seaweed: supplies calcium, magnesium and trace elements.

Bonemeal: high phosphorus (P) nitrogen (N): activates root growth.

Blood, fish and bone: high NP most useful with rock potash which has high potassium (K) to make good potato and tomato fertilizer.

Hoof and horn: good slow release nitrogen (for leaves and shoots).

Dried blood: fast acting nitrogen fertilizer. Use as a tonic.

Dolomite lime: slow acting. Contains both calcium and magnesium.

If you want to start work now, you can do the traditional thing, wheeling barrows of well rotted manure on to your garden.

This is the time to put dolomite lime on to areas which need it. If you are planting fruit trees on poor soils, a 1lb or so of hoof and horn and about the same amount of bone meal mixed with the soil at the bottom of your planting holes gives them a good start.

The theory that in a healthy soil, plants are stronger, more resistant to pests and disease, is one that works very well in the context of a garden where a small area can support a mixed economy of plants.

At first, the impulse is to stock up on the so-called acceptable pesticides (derris, pyrethrum or quassia) just in case the theory doesn't work. In my experience, you very rarely need to use them. Soft soap is a useful to combat early aphid flocks.

Clare Roberts



Good humus-rich soil will keep itself in balance with minimal management. The winner of the Soil Association's garden competition used scarcely anything but home-made compost.

The Cumulus range of organic products is probably the fullest and best. They also sell the useful set of HDRA booklets *Feeding the Soil*. Write to Two Mile Lane, Highnam, Gloucester G12 8DW for complete list and local stockists

WEEKEND TIPS

- Protect stems of climbers with straw or bracken and mulch around the base if you are anxious about cold weather.
- Dig up turnips and store them.
- Make sure ponds are clear of weeds.
- Harvest calabrese before the severe frosts which will kill the plants.
- In uncomfortably bad weather, check greenhouse and house plants, removing dead leaves before they start to decay.

The telephone number for Multi-Purpose Garden Tools, mentioned last week, is 0626-833213.

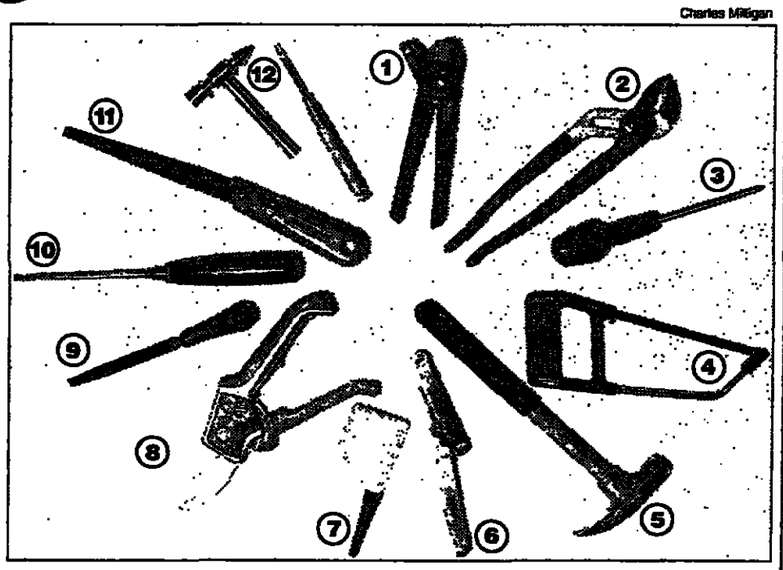
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SHOPPING

Designer tools on test

Fashionable DIY gadgets are the in thing, but are they really practical? Nicole Swengley went to find out

Charles Milligan



It all started with the Swiss Army knife with its intriguing combination of hidden, yet diverse, uses. Adopted as a fashion accessory by style-conscious designerati, this classic Boy's Own gadget has spearheaded a whole new generation of fashionable designer tools.

These days, you're as likely to find a selection of hand tools on sale in London's top accessory shrines, such as Authentics, Oggetti and Essential Next, as in your local DIY shop.

At Oggetti, Japanese-made hammers, files, pliers, oil cans and screwdrivers come with covetable, childlike, primary-coloured handles while packs of tools, presented in smart cases, have their own compact appeal at Paul Smith, Brats, and the Conran Shop.

Multi-functional tools are also popular, such as the brass "Five-in-One" combined hammer with four screwdrivers in the handle, £8.75 from Authentics, while Essential Next calls its fold-up multi-gadget a "survival tool", making it sound like a *sine qua non* for contemporary living.

But isn't there a danger here that the design input has influenced appearance more than performance? After all, tools should be user-friendly as well as attractive yet a retractable circular blade we found on sale at Liberty, for example, proved so blunt it could hardly cut paper.

Julian Hunt, the Design Centre's tool selection officer, comments: "By definition, tools have got to work. They must also be well made and comfortable to use as well as good looking. But some manufacturers are putting too much design content into looks rather than function. The steel is not always of good quality, for example, yet it is only too easy to be seduced by an attractive appearance.

"Although the tool market is traditionally rather conservative, Plasplugs, for example, has a resident design director and produces well-designed working tools while the colour-coded handles used by Stanley Tools perform a specific function with red ones taking slot-type screws and blue ones taking cross-head type screws."

Hunt offers a caveat about some of the newer gadgets. "Although multi-functional tools can be useful, they tend not to cope with specific jobs as well as single tools designed especially for that purpose and they are frequently badly made from steel that's insufficiently tempered," he says. But although some of these new tools look glamorous, if they cost more and fail to work as well as more conservative products, aren't we being blinded by design?

Tools for most tasks — clockwise from the top:

1 Plasplugs 3-in-1 glass cutter, £2.30, The Design Centre Shop, 28 Haymarket, London SW1

2 Stanley Workmaster water pump pliers, £8.35, good general stores and DIY shops nationwide

3 Stanley blue handled screwdriver, £2.85, good general stores and DIY shops nationwide

4 Plasplugs junior hacksaw, £2.30, Design Centre Shop

5 Red hammer, £7.85, Oggetti, 100 Jermyn Street, London SW1

6 Survival tool, £16.99, branches of Essential Next and Next Department Store, 54-60 Kensington High Street, London W8

7 Yellow oil can, £2.65, Oggetti, 100 Jermyn Street, London SW1

8 Wilkinson Sword professional pruner, £24.99, Design Centre Shop

9 Red handled mini file, £5.80, Oggetti

10 Stanley black handled screwdriver, £3.15, good general stores and DIY shops nationwide

11 Stanley red handled file, £3.55, good general stores and DIY shops nationwide

12 Five-in-One brass tool (shown here in two parts), £8.75, Authentics.

Picasso on the kitchen wall

While you are busy bargain hunting at the January sales, don't forget to look out for cut-price calendars, marked down now that the gift buying boom is over.

Many upmarket calendars have become a visual experience in their own right and the current crop seem to have more in common with glossily illustrated hardback books than date checkers.

Particularly striking are those showing the paintings of Maxfield Parrish and Edward Hopper, £16.95 each from branches of Waterstone's, and Claude Monet's River Seine impressions, £16.95 from Liberty, although I also liked Classic Jazz, £8.95, and the World Wildlife calendar, £6.75, also from Liberty; Remarkable Women, £6.95, Selfridges; and Annie Von Der Heide's flower collection, £9.50, exclusive to Fortnum & Mason.

Two of the more unusual ones available by mail order are Egyptian Tapestries, £10.75 inc. p&p (from Opus Publishing, 36 Camden Square, London NW1) and the Friends of the Earth calendar, £5 inc. p&p (from Friends of the Earth, 26-28 Underwood Street, London N1).

Apart from a plethora of calendars for dog, cat and horse lovers, and railway enthusiasts, there are calendars for film addicts and cricket buffs.

Antiques, nature and art, from Picasso to Frank Lloyd Wright's designs for houses, all provide inspiration, and both the National Gallery and the Tate have produced calendars of part of their collections.

N.S



Making dates: above, Hundertwasser's Architectural Fantasy, £11.95, from branches of Waterstone's; below, 1988 Film Poster calendar, £4.95, Liberty and branches



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THE TIMES COOK

From Russia: the zakouski gambit

Diana Leadbetter



Frances Bissell presents some unusual food which makes an ideal solution for an impromptu party

One good way to overcome the feeling of anticlimax after the holidays is to have a party. Why not do it today? An impromptu affair is not expected to have four or five elaborate courses and could quite easily be arranged as a buffet.

To lift it out of the ordinary, consider a Russian buffet and serve *zakouski*. These appetizing little dishes would be the prelude to a Russian dinner but they are marvellous for a buffet.

I first came across them at a favourite restaurant in Paris, Dominique, in Montparnasse. The dining room at the back gives one the feeling of being in a grand old Russian country house with dignified, elderly waiters, a spectacular samovar, lovely old paintings and icons and a magnificently carved sideboard.

The front part is a shop and snack bar which sells vodkas of all kinds, flavoured with red pepper, with lemon, with bison grass and also the good plain vodka imported from Russia. Caviar is sold in large quantities, together with all the other little bits and pieces *that go to make up zakouski*.

Sadly, the cooking is not what it once was, but we still go there, late at night, to enjoy the slightly mysterious, conspiratorial atmosphere. Not being able to afford caviar, we order a stack of warm blinis, the yeast batter pancakes which come with melted butter, sour cream, chopped onion, and some *zakouski*. These come in six or eight small dishes on a silver platter. With a small carafe or ice-cold vodka embedded in crushed ice, it makes a delightful supper.

You can reproduce a meal like this at home with a little careful shopping and a minimal amount of cooking. Blinis are essential to such a meal. However, if you do not want to make the yeast pancakes I have described, an ordinary pancake batter will do.

The sharp-eyed reader of recipes will notice that the mixture is not very different from that for pikelets, a type of crumpet. If you can buy or make good pikelets, use those instead. To go with the blinis, you do not have to serve caviar. Some brands of Danish lumpfish roe, black or red, are quite good and not too salty. *Salmon and trout roes are more* expensive but very good indeed. You could even substitute chopped smoked salmon pieces.

A selection of *zakouski* can be made up by visiting your local delicatessen and also sorting through your store-cupboard. Serve them in small bowls, and let people help themselves to a spoonful of this and a morsel of that. As well as the blinis, have some pumpernickel or other rye bread on hand. Here are some ideas to get you started.

Anchovy and potato salad, using perhaps the pink fir apple potato which Sainsbury's, Marks & Spencer and Waitrose are selling; shredded or sliced cucumber with dill and sour cream; coleslaw; sauerkraut salad, which is drained sauerkraut mixed with a little sugar, olive oil, grated apples and chopped celery and garnished with cranberries; cold meat salad mixed with onion, chopped dill pickle, shredded carrot and mayonnaise; frankfurter salad, sliced cooked sausages in a mustardy mayonnaise; herrings prepared in various ways, pickled, soused, marinated or chopped; sardines mashed with butter, lemon juice, mustard, parsley and pepper; stuffed hard boiled eggs; tarama-salata.

Make a bean salad by draining tins of flageolets, kidney beans and cannelini beans with a dressing. Apart from a vinaigrette, you might consider a dressing of sour cream mixed with mustard, the mashed yolk of a hard boiled egg, salt and pepper and chopped parsley, dill or dill pickle. A more elaborate buffet might have stuffed peppers, vine leaves, jellied meats, aubergine caviar, and lamb's tongues, but that is getting into the realms of serious cooking, and the idea here is to put together an unusual and appetizing supper without wearing yourself out.

Blinis
Makes 12 to 16

1 size-3 egg
½ pint/280ml warm milk
1 teaspoon sugar
1 heaped teaspoon dried yeast
EITHER 6 oz/170gm plain flour and 2 oz/60gm buckwheat flour
OR 8 oz/230gm plain flour
1 level teaspoon salt
oil for frying

Beat the egg and milk together and stir in the sugar and yeast. Sift the flour and salt into a warm bowl, and whisk in the liquid. Cover the bowl and stand it in a warm place for about 45 minutes, until the mixture has doubled in size. Heat a heavy based frying pan or griddle, and wipe it over with a few thicknesses of kitchen paper dipped in oil. Pour on a ladleful of batter. Turn it over when the surface looks dry, with holes in it. Cook quickly on the other side. It should not take more than a minute or two for each blini. If you have a very large pan or can manage two pans, you can cook several at a time. Keep them warm on a plate set over a pan of hot water. Serve with a jug of melted butter.

At the end of a long holiday period, there is usually a shortage of fresh vegetables. An exception is mushrooms. Often you can find them at ridiculously cheap prices after the holidays. The reason for this, of course, is that they do not stop mushrooming up in their cellars just because it's Christmas, and there is no one around to pick them. When there is such a hiccup in the supply, it is worth buying a box of them, usually weighing about 3lb/1.35kg.

A marinated mushroom salad is a perfect addition to the *zakouski* table. It is a curious fact that mushrooms, which contain a lot of water, actually give up some of their moisture when quickly boiled in water. I suggest cooking them in a mixture of water and wine which will produce an excellent mushroom broth that can be used as a base for mushroom soup.

Marinated mushrooms

2lb/0.9kg fresh mushrooms
¾ pint/430ml good dry white wine
¾ pint/430ml water
4 tablespoons white wine vinegar
2 bay leaves
1 tablespoon peppercorns
1 small piece cinnamon stick
1 level teaspoon sea salt
3 inches/7.5 cm strip orange zest
¼ pint/140ml good olive oil
salt, pepper
fresh parsley

Wipe the mushrooms carefully and trim off the base of the stem. Put the rest of the ingredients, save the olive oil and one tablespoon of wine vinegar, into a large saucepan. Bring to the boil, and simmer for 5 minutes. Put the mushrooms into the pan, bring back to the boil, and simmer for 6 or 7 minutes. Strain the liquid into a bowl to reserve for soup. Drain the mushrooms, then dry them by placing them on several layers of kitchen paper or an absorbent tea towel. When dry, put them into a serving bowl with the olive oil and remaining wine vinegar. Season to taste, and garnish with fresh parsley.

Mushroom soup
Serves 4

2 oz/60gm smoked bacon
1 small onion, peeled and chopped small
1lb/455gm mushrooms, wiped and thinly sliced or chopped
1½ pints/850ml mushroom broth (see previous recipe)
1 bay leaf
freshly ground black pepper
sea salt
cream (optional)

Remove the rind from the bacon, cut it into small strips, and fry it in a saucepan. Add the onion, and fry it until golden brown. Then fry the mushrooms. Cook these dry over a high heat for a minute or two, then pour in the mushroom broth and add the bay leaf, pepper and salt. Bring to the boil, and simmer for 20 minutes or so. You can either serve the soup as it is or thicken it by making a purée of most of the mushrooms with or without cream and returning it to the pan to reheat it. Serve very hot.

For those guests who stay and stay until long after the vodka and *zakouski* have run out, here is a recipe for something more substantial. It calls for ingredients that are quite likely to be in your refrigerator and store cupboard anyway, but, if not, they should not be too difficult to find, even at the end of a long holiday. The *quantities can be multiplied to* serve more.

Spaghetti with sausage sauce
Serves 4

1lb/455gm best quality sausages with as high a proportion of meat as possible
1 onion, peeled and thinly sliced
garlic to taste, peeled and crushed
14oz/395gm tin Italian tomatoes
½ teaspoon dried herbs or
½ tablespoon freshly chopped herbs such as oregano or marjoram
1lb/455gm packet Italian spaghetti
2-3 tablespoons olive oil
2 oz/85gm freshly grated parmesan

Squeeze the sausage meat into a frying pan, and cook over a gentle heat until the fat begins to run. Raise the heat, and cook until the meat is well browned. Remove it from the pan, and keep to one side. Drain off most of the fat. Fry the onion until just turning brown. Add the garlic and tomatoes. Cook over a fairly high heat until most of the liquid has evaporated, then put the sausage meat back, together with herbs. Cook gently for at least 25 to 30 minutes.

Longer cooking improves the flavour. The addition of a glass of red wine at an early stage of the cooking would improve it even further. Cook the spaghetti according to your preferred method or to the directions on the packet. Drain it, and pour it into a large heated bowl containing the olive oil. Stir the spaghetti in the oil, add the sausage sauce, stir once more, and serve with parmesan cheese.

If you are sick of looking at a depleted bowl of nuts or bored with cracking them and getting pieces of shell all over the carpet, take them into the kitchen, crack them all, grind them in the food processor, and make these very simple and delicious macaroons. You can mix the nuts, but on the whole, I think a single flavour is to be preferred. Hazel-nuts make a welcome change from the more usual almonds.

Hazel-nut macaroons
Makes 15 to 20

4 oz/110gm ground hazel-nuts
4 oz/110gm caster sugar, or one of the unrefined sugars that you grind to the same texture
1 size-3 egg white

Mix the ground nuts and sugar together, and then stir in the egg white to form a stiff paste. Line a baking sheet with rice paper. Take a piece of paste the size of a marble, roll it into a ball, and place on the rice paper. Continue with all the paste in this way, leaving plenty of space around each ball, as they are to be flattened. You can simply do this with oiled fingers or use a decorative stamp, covered loosely in oiled clingfilm to make a design on top of the macaroon. The final size should be about 1½ inches or 4cm in diameter and ¼ inch or ½cm thick. Bake towards the top of a pre-heated oven at 180°C/350°F/gas mark 4 for 15 minutes until just lightly golden. Switch off the oven, leave the door ajar, and place the baking sheet on the bottom to allow the macaroons to dry out for a further 15 to 20 minutes. Remove from the oven, and allow them to cool on the tray. They will harden, and you remove them with the rice paper.

COLLECTING

Deft dealing in Delft

"I'm sure this dish isn't worth anything," said the owner. "Hugo, my husband, paid £25 for it, merely because he liked the look of it. I'm always telling him that beauty is all very well in its way, but we have to consider the investment potential. This is very crudely decorated, and chipped at the edges."

"Worth at least £200 to a collector of English delft — delft with a small d," said the valuer. "The colours — green, yellow and manganese brown — are slapped on to the white tin glaze with the vigour that characterizes this sort of thing. If the body were cracked, it would be more serious, but the

Joyce MacDonald



chips are really only flaking off the glaze on the edge, which is acceptable."

"But I always thought that Delft was in Holland. As for tin glaze, it sounds only too familiar. It's what comes over Hugo's eyes when he's been drinking too much canned beer."

"Very apt. Brewing was the chief industry in Delft until shortly before 1600, when they started to imitate, in earthenware, the Chinese porcelain — china — that was being imported. The potteries even took over the names of the old breweries."

"But how did tin come into it?"

"In the form of tin oxide, added to lead glaze to provide a surface superficially resembling porcelain. Italian tin-glazed ware is known as Maiolica, the French as Faience, the Dutch as Delft."

"And the English pinched the name and copied it. Where, exactly?"

"In London at Southwark, Fulham and Lambeth. In the country at Bristol, Liverpool and Wincanton. Delftware was also made in Dublin."

"Irish double Dutch. This is getting worse. When was all this going on?"

"Tin-glazed wares were being made in England by a couple of immigrant Dutchmen in the 16th century, and continued to be produced until about 1790."

"So how do we know when and were a particular piece was potted?"

"We don't, in some cases. Dutch wares are often marked, but English work has to be identified by comparison with documentary pieces that are inscribed and dated. I would guess that your dish was made at Lambeth about 1760, but I could be wrong. When looking at English delft, we have to rely on such evidence as the colour of the glaze. Lambeth is very white and flakes easily. Bristol is usually bluish-white. Certain factories specialized in making certain things. Liverpool, for example, catered for seamen by producing punch bowls painted with ships."

"I know all about drunken sailors. Hugo belongs to a yacht club. What else did they make?"

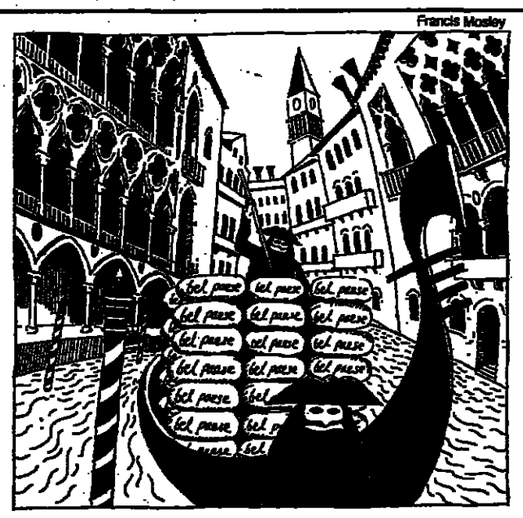
"Taking all the factories into account, a wide range of plates, dishes, tiles, mugs, drug jars, wall vases and even figures. Rare examples can sell for thousands. Yours, I regret, is not among them."

Peter Philp

Saleroom prices:
Christie's, June 1987: Bristol dish painted with flowering shrubs c.1740 (cracked) £220.
Blue and white puzzle jug c.1760 (imperfect) £1,980.
Lambeth blue and white footwarmer c. 1770 (chipped) £715.
Specialist dealers: Alistair Sampson, 158 Brompton Rd, London SW3. Jonathan Horne, 66b Kensington Church St, London W8, who has recently published a book on London delftware.
Other literature: *Collecting Delft* by Diana Imber (Arco). *Dated English Delftware* by L. Lipski and M.Archer (Sotheby's, limited edition). *English Delftware* by F. Garner and M. Archer (Faber).

EATING OUT

Francis Mosley



Cooking on a bandwagon

Jonathan Meades table-hops among some Italian regional restaurants

When I handed my charge card to the manager of *Carraro's* in Battersea he looked at the name stamped on it and observed: "You write for someone don't you?" I agreed. He then observed: "Not been our night has it?"

"No, it hasn't," I said knowing very well, though, that we were not thinking on the same lines. He was thinking of the two dishes I had sent back and of the service I had received which was not so much slow as haustrung and off the track. I was thinking of something rather more fundamental — of the entire conception of a restaurant which represents itself as something other than what it is.

I'm not certain whether Carraro's is an instance of a commendable idea poorly executed or of scrag-end dressed as gigot and fooling no one. Given that we're only just past the season of suicides and dyspepsia known as "good-will", I'll give it the benefit of the doubt and opt for the former, though my head and my tongue beg to differ.

The idea of the place was evidently conceived in reaction to the commonplace criticism that mainstream "Italian" restaurants in this country have very little indeed to do with Italy and that the unholy trinity of veal, pasta and tomato is a traducement of Italy's kitchen — or kitchens, since the country's cooking is not homogenized, this heterogeneity, this extant regionalism, is what Carraro's has picked up on.

The menu thus offers numerous dishes without the dismal repertoire of "Italian" caterers — these dishes are mostly northern Italian, a few are specifically Venetian. The trouble is though that they are no better prepared than the run-of-the-mill stuff in run-of-the-mill restaurants — they are Italian in conception, "Italian" in execution.

You cannot but suspect that the menu was devised by someone other than the chef whose forte is risotto — the one I ate was done with good stock, bone marrow maybe, and had white truffle shaved over it; save that it was very slightly undercooked it was all right. A fairly rich stew of hare was all right too but would have been rather better had the hare not been hacked by some maniac with an axe — the creature's ribcage had been reduced to countless sharp shards. It was served with soggy polenta.

The first dish to be sent back was a crude, cuff-like pasta creation, the next was a selection of what is billed as "our regional cheeses". These regional cheeses are Gorgonzola, bel paese, taleggio etc. The regional cheese I specifically asked not to be given because I can't stand it was bel paese. Sure enough, in the centre of the plate, its waxy-plastic wrapping beside it like a just sloughed skin, sat a wedge of the ghastly stuff.

Between these two dishes had come one of well herbed, but very fat, veal. The vegetables are not good — lukewarm greasy potatoes, overdone cauliflower, tasteless carrots. With a thinnish Sangiovese di Romagna, this meal cost £59 for two which is way over the odds for what is essentially old Soho cooking tarted up and transported south of the river to comfortable premises whose main decorative feature doesn't come off. This is a wallful of *trompe-l'oeil* which doesn't — I mean the painting of architectural features does not trick the eye for a moment.

Zizai Dolce is a far more considerable establishment, indeed it seems to belong to a different world. A world where waiters wear tight little aprons like slit mini-skirts over their trousers, a world where "modern" design is triumphant and white rules, a world, too, where they cook to a good standard. The cooking at this place, from which you can almost see the river, is less homely than that of its parent restaurant in inland Chelsea (which I wrote about this time last year): as the restaurant is more elegant, so is the food more refined and the service less cocky.

As soon as we arrived the boss offered drinks on the house — this was not a bribe but a compensatory gesture for having had to move me from one table to another a year ago. What a memory I thought. But it became clear that he probably offers such drinks to everyone who enters for he has a near obsession with moving people about during the course of the evening. Still, he does it with grace.

The place runs at speed — there's even a hospital style ramp for the sweets trolley, whose contents include a delicious tiramisu. Before that we ate raw salmon marinaded in lemon juice and oil; equally fine raw beef with parmesan and oil; a marvellous fritto misto of veal offal — brains and sweetbreads (both battered), kidneys and liver; pheasant breast in (for an Italian place) an unusually well made sance of ham, boletus and wine; first rate spinach cooked in stock.

The only item undeserving of high marks was the polenta served with the pheasant. Restaurants tend to use the "instant" variety which is simply not coarse enough and turns into a paste with no bite. With one aperitif, one digestif and a most reasonably priced bottle of the misnamed vino nobile di Montepulciano, a pretty memorable meal came to £58.

Like Carraro's, Ziani Dolce is normally Venetian but it doesn't let regional chauvinism get in the way of gastronomic good sense — which is as well given that Venice is not a place to go to eat. Indeed it's a bit of a mystery that so gastronomically dreary a city should spawn all these embassies of its grub while an island such as Sardinia should be unrepresented till now.

Pagu Dinai, which opened six weeks ago is, if nothing else, proof that regionalism is worth pursuing if it's done in earnest and by a cook who knows what he's about. Sardinian cooking, on this showing, is rustic, characterized by punchy flavours and the same sweet trolley as mainland Italy. The only truly unusual ingredient, as opposed to dish, that Pagu Dinai offers is wild boar which, as served here, is, I'm afraid, all too akin to its cousin the tame pig.

Things were otherwise much better: a superb seafood risotto of the utmost nactuousness; a very gutsy dish of eel with a souped-up tomato sance spiked with black olives; a sizeable chunk of salt cod with properly cooked green beans. The Sardinian wine called Selvatico is an apt accompaniment to this pretty highly flavoured food. Sweets are, as I say, generically Italian but not bad. The place is cramped, noisy, decoratively unremarkable and well worth investigating. Two will pay about £45.

Carraro's: 32 Queenstown Road SW8 (720 5896/7079), 12.30-2.30pm and 7-11.30pm. Closed Sat lunch and all Sunday.
Ziani Dolce: 112 Cheyne Walk SW10 (352 7534/1324), 12.30-2.45pm and 7-11.30pm. Closed Sunday night.
Pagu Dinai: 690 Fulham Road SW6 (736 1195), noon-3pm and 7-11pm everyday.

DRINK

Bin-ends for the bibbers

Suffering wine bibbers with jaded palates and fragile livers will not want to order more wine this weekend. But with a host of slashed priced wines available, that's exactly what we all ought to be doing.

As usual the wine trade is being coy about the level of *their Christmas* sales. My hunch is that the expected stampede did not happen. There are certainly more bin-end and cut price offers, to my knowledge, this January than in previous years.

Corney & Barrow, wine merchants to the Queen, the Queen Mother and the Prince of Wales, are holding a bumper 200 bin January sale, so send off for this straight away to 12 Helmet Row, London EC1. The offer does not close until January 29 but the numerous plums here are *likely to be plucked swiftly*. Two fine ports from great vintages Cockburn '63 (£470) and Fonseca '77 (£330) look worthwhile as does Graham '83 (£160). Given the high prices, as much as £200 a case, of the latest port vintage to be declared — the 1985 — older vintages' prices are now beginning to look very appealing, if not ridiculously cheap.

Claret has always been a Corney & Barrow speciality and this offer, with over a hundred different bin-ends to choose from, is no exception. Châteaux Gruaud-Larose '70 (£350) and Talbot '71 (£185), of the earlier vintages available, should both be delicious and for those who want to risk their New Year savings on the tiring '75s there are almost a dozen to mull over. A much safer bet is the long list of clarets from the well-thought of '78 and '79 vintages, backed by an even longer list of the superb '82s.

Burgundy lovers should also enjoy Corney's range, with fine domain bottled wines from great names such as Dujac and Oliver Leflaive.

The Hungerford Wine Company, 128 High Street, Hungerford, Berkshire, are also running a big January bin-end offer. Their appropriately entitled Great Leap Year Sale with some 2,500 cases of 300 different wines, starts around the second week in January and will continue for about a month. Jaboulet wines from the Rhône look especially appetising here and anyone after the fabled Hermitage La Chapelle should get their cheque books and bank loans ready now: the '83 is on offer at £402.50 a case, a saving of £46, and the '85 is going for £299.

For those who like to quaff their claret in quantity Hungerford have the answer with a range of Bordeaux Impériales, giant bottles that each contain six litres worth of wine. Good Bordeaux châteaux from the '86, '85, '82, and '83 vintages are also on offer at good discounts from Hungerford's normal list, as is a small but select range of vintage port.

Eric Beaumont



Laytons Wine Vaults, 20 Midland Road, London NW1 have, as always, a mixed range of January bin-ends available. Personal callers can visit Laytons from 8.30 on January 8 until 2pm on Sunday 10th, but mail order customers who contact Laytons before the 8th are likely to get the star buys. These include a case of '83 Mouton-Rothschild, down from £609.50 to £494.50, plus good buys both from Burgundy and the Rhone.

Most unusually a High Street outlet, namely Oddbins, is holding a sale during the last three weeks of the month when over a hundred wines at reduced prices will be available. Similarly, Majestic Wine Warehouses sale starts on January 12 and continues until the end of the month with sensible discounts on 20 different wines available in all 22 branches.

Jane MacQuitty

هكذا من الاصل

THE ARTS

TELEVISION

Back on course

Last night on BBC1 *Way Up Stream* went for the first time, way up stream. Hitherto, Alan Ayckbourn's notorious boating play had to content itself with chugging around in the leaky improvised swimming pool – first in Scarborough, then more problematically at the National Theatre where floods were followed by fire, and then the failure of the boat to chug at all.

The play did not exactly sink without trace – the Press followed its demise with Belgrano relish – but the qualities of this political allegory in defence of moderation were obscured by the circus act of its staging. Like a dog walking on his hind legs, if not like a woman's preaching, it was not done well but you were surprised to find it done at all.

The television version, adapted and directed by playwright Terry Johnson, returned the boat to its natural habitat. The effect was to make more marked the contrast between the clichéd banality of the setting – two couples with archetypal bourgeois woes on a shambolic boating holiday trip – and the symbolic import of the action.

The boat is run with authoritarian dictatorship, first by right-wing businessman Keith (Barrie) Rutter then by drop-out subversive Vince (Stuart Wilson) as it *makes its troubled way to* Armageddon bridge. The film set off with conventional sit-com larking which gave little warning of what was to come.

Johnson, however, with intelligent development of the text, chose a pastiche of cinematic style to support the later weighty symbolic luggage. He upped the violence, introduced echoes of *Deliverance* and then parodied horror films in a dream of that conquering wimp of weak moderation, Alistair (Nick Dunning), who now downed Vince with a tin of baked beans. The strong cast, with Joanne Pearce as Alistair's wife and Marion Bailey as Keith's, delicately switched from comic mockery to mock-horror, then real horror and back again while Ayckbourn's vision of polarized England just survived the trip.

Andrew Hislop

Mediterranean mezzo

More than 10 years after her first Covent Garden performance, and fresh from a much publicized dispute with Karajan over her portrayal of Carmen, the fiery Agnes Baltsa is back in London for *L'Italiana in Algeri*, her first comic role here. John Higgins reports

Donald Cooper



Baltsa: "Abbado made me appreciate that Rossini was difficult to sing because it must seem easy to the audience"

Agnes Baltsa exudes energy. An immense mane of multicoloured hair surrounds the long face. The eyes are constantly mobile, wary at times and then rolling into mischief. The laugh is a full-throated gurgle. She is fond of describing herself as "Mediterranean" and for one who was *born on a Greek island this is more* than permissible.

Her first appearances at Covent Garden just over 10 years ago were in Mozart, Cherubino and then Dorabella, and were quite modest. But now she is into her forties she can reasonably claim to be the mezzo soprano most sought after at the moment, a position achieved through a careful control of repertoire.

London has mainly heard her in big dramatic roles: Bellini's Romeo, Offenbach's Giulietta, Saint-Saens's Dalila and, of course, Bizet's Carmen. But tonight Covent Garden will see a different side of Baltsa, the comedienne, in Jean-Pierre Ponnelle's staging of *L'Italiana in Algeri*, Rossini's first full length comic opera to be an undisputed success.

The production began in Vienna last September, when it was reviewed on this page, but Ponnelle has been polishing his visual gags for this tale of the Italian girl, shipwrecked on the Barbary Coast, who manages to teach the occupying Turks a thing or two before being repatriated, ever since he first directed it at La Scala in the early 1970s.

Agnes Baltsa is free with her tributes to Ponnelle, who builds on and around her qualities as a singing actress just as he once did with Berganza. "We agreed that Isabella [the Italian girl] holds the Turks in total contempt. She is young, sly – *Fausdick hinter den Ohren*, as the Germans would say – very fond of jokes and all too ready to twist their tails."

If Ponnelle has taught Baltsa a lot about theatre, including the role of Carmen, which she first sang under his direction, then the man in Vienna who instructed her in Rossini style was Claudio Abbado.

"Isabella is possibly a bit low for me, especially in Act II, but Claudio is the kind of man to remove such reservations. His Rossini is sun, life and wit. It is also precision. One of the first things he made me appreciate was that Rossini was difficult to sing because it must seem easy all the time to the audience. He and Jean-Pierre are always moving towards the total fusion of theatre and music and to achieve that they keep you in their clutches – you have a kind of operatic love affair with them and you can't say no."

Although Baltsa goes back to sing L'Italiana again at the Vienna State Opera in the spring, when the production will move *en bloc* into the studios for filming, that will be an end to Rossini for the time being. Rosina and Cenerentola have long been in the Baltsa repertory, *La donna del lago* and *Semiramide* she has done in concert, but she is cautious not to let her voice become fixed in any one mould.

"I have stopped singing Carmen for the moment, apart from three future Vienna performances for Claudio, because I feel I have nothing more to give here." Baltsa gives her heart a hefty thump. (There is also the practical difficulty that her regular Jose, Carreras, is still, to everyone's grief, too ill to sing at the moment.)

So Agnes Baltsa will move in yet another direction and sing *Orfeo* for Karajan at Salzburg. This marks a reconciliation between mezzo and conductor after the much publicised disagreements over *Carmen* at that festival and some rather less public ones over the interpretation of Donna Elvira in the DG *Don Giovanni* recording.

"Yes, we quarrelled and now there is a reconciliation. I am proud of that. It does not often happen so quickly. Yes, I said sorry in quite formal Octavian-like terms, *Mir ist die Ehre* . . . I am endlessly thankful to him because at the start he really formed me. Eboli in Salzburg, the *mezzo role in Verdi's Don Carlos* [which Baltsa will shortly be singing at Covent Garden] was a turning point; it's the kind of thing that happens only once in a lifetime. He made extreme demands of me and it certainly was not easy. When the dispute came over *Carmen* it was almost like a divorce. But that is all now over."

But the place which looks most likely to be Baltsa's future operatic base looks to be Vienna. It is there she will sing her first Santuzza – "There's a Mediterranean role, if ever there was one !" – an indication that she is prepared to scale the lower reaches of the soprano repertory. Two of Lady Macbeth's arias on a recital record just out from EMI (CDC 7 47627 2) are another. But Baltsa insists she *remains a falcon*: "I'll try to treat Santuzza as a bel canto role, but the colour of my voice is pure mezzo. And I'll be singing Eboli for Abbado in Vienna's new *Don Carlos* He is an intellectual and Mediterranean – what a combination!"

So for that matter is Agnes Baltsa.

THE TIMES ARTS DIARY

Maestro to return

Following treatment for cancer, Maestro Klaus Tennstedt plans to return to the concert platform next week – in Philadelphia. And the London Philharmonic, which appointed him Conductor Laureate after his sudden resignation as musical director in August, is delighted.

"It is better for him to work somewhere else first, because he is so emotionally attached to the LPO he would find it an even bigger strain," explains managing director John Willan. Tennstedt has just completed a Wagner recording with the LPO and his first concert with the orchestra since October, 1986, is now planned for May 6 at the Royal Festival Hall.

Clash of awards

A clash in the arts calendar means some well-known personalities face a choice of black-tie invitations. Having avoided the usual near collision with the *London Evening Standard* drama awards in November, the Society of West End Theatre will present its Olivier theatre awards on Sunday, January 24 – the same night as the *London Evening Standard* gives its prizes for British films. In the Victoria Palace Theatre, SWET's awards ceremony will be televised live by BBC2 in the presence of Prince Edward. At the Savoy Hotel, with the Duchess of Kent as guest of honour, the rival proceedings will be broadcast – by Channel 4.

● **The names of Vanessa Redgrave and Timothy Dalton are linked again – they are to star as husband and wife in *A Touch of the Poet*, Eugene O'Neill's last full-length play, only now being given its London premiere, 1988 being the centenary of the playwright's birth. Joely Richardson, the younger of Miss Redgrave's actress daughters, will play their stage offspring. The production marks Dalton's return to the-atre after his movie escapade as James Bond. It opens at the Young Vic on January 28 and later transfers to the Theatre Royal, Haymarket.**



Redgrave and Dalton

Unmerry switch

A change of programme by the English National Opera means that instead of singing *The Merry Widow* in April, Josephine Barstow will star as an unmerry 337-year-old woman in Janacek's *The Makropulos Case*. One reason for the switch is that *Merry Widow* producer Ian Judge was unavailable to mastermind the revival after a busy season directing the RSC's *Wizard of Oz* and the forthcoming *Bitter Sweet* for the New Sadler's Wells Opera.

Bottom line?

While only £2,000 more is needed to achieve the £50,000 appeal target set after fire devastated the Bush Theatre, in Shepherd's Bush, audiences there are discovering restoration has given them an unexpected bonus – comfortable cushions, ending years of bumnumbness, have been bought with £1,000 from the Theatres' Trust.

Lynda Murdin

Following performance

NEW YORK THEATRE

New York theatre-goers have embraced two oddities which look to be around for a long time. Penn and Teller (Ritz Theatre), a zany comedy-magic team who have previously been successful off Broadway and on national tour, have moved into a Broadway house for a six-week run which has already been extended twice. Tamara, a combination melodrama-party game-banquet, has taken over part of an Upper East Side armory and is packing in customers at $125 a ticket.

Written by John Krizanc, directed by Richard Rose, and conceived by both, *Tamara* originated in Toronto in 1981 and has been playing in Los Angeles since 1984. It took the production team several years to find the right Manhattan space for it in the Seventh Regiment Armory on Park Avenue. . Designer Robert Checchi has transformed 10 rooms on three floors of one armory wing into evocations of the main salons, bedrooms and servants' quarters of Il Vittoriale, the villa of Italian writer Gabriel d'Annunzio.

The time is 1927, when Mussolini had d'Annunzio under virtual house arrest as a political agitator. Attendees at *Tamara* (up to 200 per performance) are issued not tickets but passports by a po-faced fascist guard who barks out orders. Servants pass out Tamara cocktails and antipasto.

When passport control closes, the 10 characters enter and the audience is told the rules – they may follow any of the characters anywhere except through closed doors, but may not speak to the actors or each other. Off everyone goes, *following their fancies until* intermission, where a sumptuous cold buffet is held in the dining room and grand salon.

On to the second act, and afterwards, trying to piece together the story over crème brulée and brownies. What I and my friend understood from the scenes we caught was that the French-Polish artist and beauty Tamara de Lempicke arrived to paint the portrait of d'Annunzio, who hoped to add her to his household of mistresses.

One ex-mistress was a suicidal concert pianist, loved by a composer vengefully trying to addict d'Annunzio to cocaine. A ballerina *ingénue* danced badly, comforted by the female housekeeper who wanted to seduce her. At the end there were some deaths and escapes.

I cannot take seriously the author's claim that the tale is "about the mass psychology of fascism, sexual and political impotence". But *Tamara* is fun as a special event, especially combined with the ambience and the delicacies.

The feats performed by *Penn and Teller*, often using audience members as participants, range from amusing to astounding, but the unique accomplishment of the young duo is to challenge the audience to wonder not *how* they perform their tricks but *why*.

Penn and Teller often explain tricks, the *pièce de résistance* of this approach being the finale in which Penn eats fire. First he explains how it's done; then he does it in ever more spectacular ways. Both are dressed in yuppy three-piece suits, which somehow adds to the sense of wonder.

Holly Hill



Run to ground*: Lally Cadeau and Patrick Horgan in *Tamara

Envious look at the past

RECITAL

Songmakers' Almanac
Wigmore Hall

At the Wigmore Hall you meet a pensive sort of New Year's Eve reveller. These are people who are probably not intending to round off the evening with a dip in the Trafalgar Square fountains, yet are equally not prepared to follow Edward Fitzgerald's depressing advice: "The New Year reviving old desires, the thoughtful soul to solitude retires."

What they want, in fact, is stimulating entertainment, droll humour, cultured singing, and not a whiff of kilts or Johann Strauss waltzes. And that is exactly what Graham Johnson provided in this Songmakers' Almanac programme of songs written a century ago.

Even in 1988, living in the shadow of Andrew Lloyd-Webber, we might look back on the songwriting riches of 1888 with some envy. Brahms, Tchaikovsky and Fauré were in full flow; Reynaldo Hahn was producing his own quintessentially perfumed ballads; aspiring youngsters like Mahler, Richard Strauss and Debussy were active; even in Britain Sir Arthur Sullivan was, well, doing his best.

But this programme was dominated by Hugo Wolf's songs, not surprisingly since he wrote 92 of them in 1888, mostly of Mörike's poetry ("and not one is a failure", he confided modestly to his mother). It was also cunningly compiled by Johnson, so that readings led subtly into songs.

That worked both on a comic and a more sinister level. Johnson prefaced Wolf's "Der Tambour" (a soldier longing for home comforts) with a description of the composer's own portable bath, made of india rubber (in which he apparently found "a veritable stream of inspiration").

Not all the singing was top-quality: Patricia Rozario showed admirable control in the higher register but a tepid sense of characterization, and Richard Jackson occasionally lacked sufficient tonal weight. But the light tenor of Adrian Thompson was ideal, and Sarah Walker produced glorious tone and magical interpretations, aided by Johnson's imaginative piano playing.

Richard Morrison

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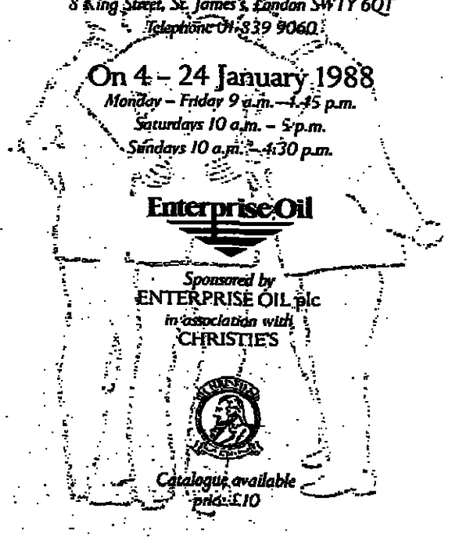


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REVIEW

Portrait of a reed

JAZZ RECORDS

The Complete Recordings of the Paul Desmond Quartet with Jim Hall (Mosaic MR6-120, 6 discs)

As the man whose palely beautiful alto saxophone sound provided the Dave Brubeck Quartet with its most obvious characteristic, as well as being the composer of "Take Five", the group's greatest hit, Paul Desmond was successful to a degree that, by the time of his death from lung cancer in 1977, thoroughly obscured his excellence. Today, it would be a surprise if one jazz critic in 50 nominated him among the top dozen practitioners of his instrument in the post-war period, or if one in 1,000 young altoists ranked him among their influences.

Mosaic's Complete Recordings proves that celebrity did no damage whatever to Desmond's art. A six-LP box of recordings made for Warner Brothers and RCA between 1959 and 1965, its 50 pieces (including, in Mosaic's usual diligent style, several previously unreleased items) constitute a portrait of one of jazz's sublime melodists enjoying a more relaxed and appropriate environment than that in which he came to fame.

Desmond's unique alto tone, so pure in the upper register that it could be mistaken for a flute, lacked the conventional masculine values in evidence among his contemporaries — the overwhelming power of a Charlie Parker, for instance, or the cutting edge of an Eric Dolphy, or the muscular ebullience of a Cannonball Adderley. This made it all too easy for critics to ignore him when the fashion moved on from the cool West Coast styles of the Fifties to the naked expressionism of the Sixties. But a couple of tunes here, "Blues for Fun" and "Rude Old Man", show both Desmond's gift for investing improvisation with logical and intriguing dynamic structure and his natural affinity with the forms and feelings of the 12-bar blues. He was, in truth, once of Lester Young's most distinguished disciples.

The ballads, of course, are gorgeous. On such themes as "Nancy", "Alone Together" and "When Joanna Loved Me", Desmond and the brilliant guitarist Jim Hall can be heard developing their partnership to exquisite levels of interplay, assisted by the MJQ's drummer, Connie Kay, and a succession of first-rate bassists. Jazz is rarely as pretty as this; and jazz this pretty is practically never so full of substance.

Richard Williams



Paul Desmond: a gift for intriguing improvisations — and a natural affinity with the forms and feelings of the 12-bar blues

A firm grip on the blues

ROCK RECORDS

John Hammond: Nobody But You (Demon Fiend 107)

Although it fails to capture the devastating intensity of his live show, *Nobody But You* is an accurate snapshot of the current repertoire of one of America's most distinguished itinerant blues artistes. In a career spanning 25 years, John Hammond has worked with the generation of white performers who injected blues into the rock mainstream, including people like Steve Winwood, Duane Allman and Levon Helm of The Band. But to this day, he continues to mint fresh currency from the dies struck by original blues legends such as his heroes Robert Johnson and Willie Dixon.

On John Lee Hooker's "Ride Till I Die (Jockey Blues)" and W. Jacobs's "Move On Up The Line (Cutting Out)", Hammond's soulful vocal delivery is a dead ringer for that of Blue Horizon-vintage Peter Green. The old National steel guitar which he is pictured holding on the cover may belong in a museum but is pressed into active service on Muddy Waters's slow 12-bar "Honey Bees (Sail On)". (Why were these old blues writers never able to settle for just the one title?)

Everywhere on the album the marks of a lovingly "authentic" reproduction are evident: from an upright bass and kick-drum rhythm section that comes tumbling into "Honey Bees" like a sack of potatoes rolling down the stairs, to the trilling mandalin climaxes that mark the progress of Arthur Crudup's "If I Get Lucky". Central to the picture is Hammond's own acoustic guitar and sweet, high harmonica forays.

The collection tends to focus on light, jaunty material — "Diddly Daddy", "Papa Wants A Cookie", "Memphis Town", "Mother-in-Law Blues" — and despite one or two tougher injections, such as the spooky "Killing Me On My Feet", the album never quite gets to grips with the pain that is peculiar to the essence of blues music.

The good-natured Hammond has blown the dust off some minor gems, but the crown jewels remain undisturbed.

David Sinclair

Treats from troubled times

CLASSICAL RECORDS

Haydn: Nelson Mass/Te Deum. English Concert/Pinnock. Archiv CD423 097-2.
Mendelssohn: Paulus. Leipzig Gewandhausorchester/Masur. Philips 2 CDs 420 212-2.

It certainly feels like time for a change from *Messiah*, and these two new choral releases provide timely diversion. An authentic instrument recording of the Haydn is long overdue and so is a reappraisal of Mendelssohn's *St Paul*: both more than justify their place in the catalogue.

Haydn originally called his "Nelson" Mass the "Missa in Angustiis", the mass in straitened or troubled times; and not until the ear has been alerted to the dry rattle of the small contemporary timpani with their hard sticks, and the laser-beam of those long trumpets, can the true nervous sensibility of its highly-strung writing be fully appreciated.

It is obviously the distinctive sonority of Pinnock's band which sets this recording apart. But his pacing, too, often at extreme ends of the tempo scale, gives the work a new sense of focus.

The Gloria's fast-slow-fast triptych is magnificently controlled, with finely inflected singing from the professional soloists of the English Concert Choir and vividly stylish performances from Felicity Lott, Carolyn Watkinson, Maldwyn Davies and David Wilson-Johnson.

Mendelssohn's *St Paul* is seldom given a chance to surface from the cobweb mustiness of English nonconformity. But if Kurt Masur and his Leipzig musicians cannot persuade us of the ingennity and excitement of the work (it is more consistently inspired than *Elijah*) then no one can.

Masur captures exactly the austere vitality of the work, its cumulative movement from darkness to light: he shapes its chorales affectionately, points its epiphanies with clarity — the episode on the Road to Damascus is tersely and vividly portrayed — and draws fine performances from Gundula Janowitz, Hans Peter Blochwitz and Theo Adam as Paul/Saul himself.

Hilary Finch

CHESS

Earlier this week, the Foreign and Colonial Grandmaster tournament started at Hastings.

This year the category has risen to 13, one of the best, and the format has returned to the double-round style of 1922, when Alekhine won ahead of Rubinstein, Bogolyubov, Tarrasch and so on. Contrary to an inaccurate report alleging a cutback in the tournament budget, this year's Hastings is the strongest of a distinguished sequence.

The home competitors are Nigel Short, Jon Speelman, John Nunn, Murray Chandler and last year's qualifier, Nigel Davies. In addition, there is a powerful opposition from a foreign contingent, among them Bent Larsen of Denmark, Joel Benjamin (the reigning US champion), and Lev Psakhis (the former USSR champion).

This week's game is one of Larsen's typical double-edged fights and an indication of what the Danish Grandmaster can achieve when he hits form.

White: Nigel Short; Black: Bent Larsen. SWIFT, Brussels 1987. Sicilian Accelerated Fianchetto.

1 e4	c5	2 Nf3	Nc6
3 d4	cxd4	4 Nxd4	g6
5 c4	Bg7	6 Be3	Nf6

The Maroczy Bind, an onerous system for Black but one with many hidden resources for the determined player.

7 Nc3	Ng4	8 Qxg4	Nxd4
9 Qd1	Ne6	10 Rc1	Qa5
11 Be2	b6	12 0-0	Bb7
13 f3	g5	14 a3	

Coastal defences

This seems annecessary. 14 Rf2 followed by Bf1 and Rd2 was Short's later suggestion.

14 ...	Qe5	15 Qd2	h5
16 Rfd1	d6	17 b4	b4

Larsen consistently strives to gain territory on the King's flank in preparation for a distant endgame.

18 Nd5	Kf8	19 Bf1	Bc6
20 Qd3	Nf4	21 Nxf4?	

Larsen has criticized this capture, advocating the humble retraction 21 Qd2 in its place.

21 ...	gxf4	22 Bd4	Qxd4+
23 Qxd4	Bxd4+	24 Rxd4	Rb5
25 c5			

Short prefers not to wait passively and seeks active play in the centre.

25 ...	dxc5	26 bxc5	b5
27 e5	h3	28 Re1	hxg2
29 Bxg2	Re8	30 Rxf4	Bd5
31 e6	f6	32 h4	Rxc5
33 Rh3	Bc6	34 Kf2	Rhd5
35 Re3	f5		

According to Larsen, Black's threat to surround White's pawn on e6 forces Short to sacrifice his "h" pawn to create complications.

36 h5	Kg7	37 h6+	Kxh6
38 Rh4+	Kg7	39 f4	Re2+?

In the heat of battle Larsen commits an error which permits Short to draw. Correct is 39 ... Be8.

40 Ke1	Rc1+	41 Ke2	Be8
42 Rg3+	Bg6	43 Rh5?	

Missing his chance. White could have drawn with 43 Bxf5 Rxf5 44 Rhg4, regaining the Bishop. From here on Larsen makes no more mistakes.

43 ...	Rc2+	44 Ke1	Re2
45 Rxe3	Bxh5	46 Re7	Kf6
47 Rxa7	Rd4	48 Rd5	

A desperate remedy against Larsen's imminent acquisition of two connected central passed pawns. However, the resulting endgame is a technical win for Black.

48 ...	Kxd5	49 Rxe7	Rd5
50 e4			

The best chance to confuse things. Black will experience his greatest problems in his quest for victory if his last remaining pawn is deflected to the "a" file.

50 ...	bxa4	51 Ra7	Rd4
52 Ra5	Kg4	53 a7	Ba8
54 f5	Kg5	55 Ra8	Ra4+
56 Kd2	Rxe7	57 Kc3	Kxf5

This difficult ending, with a Rook's Pawn promoting on a square not covered by the Black Bishop, has been considered a win for the stronger side ever since the classic game Capablanca-Tarrasch, St Petersburg 1914. Tarrasch won even against Capa's heroic resistance. Of course, what Black must avoid is an exchange of Rooks if White's King could reach a1.

58 Kb2	Ke4	59 Rd8	Bd7
60 Rb8	Kd4	61 Rb7	Re2+
62 Ka3	Re3+	63 Kb2	a3+
64 Ka1	Be8	65 Rb1	Kc3
66 Rc1+	Kb4	67 Rb1+	Bb3
68 Rc1	Re2	69 Rg1	Rd2
70 Rg4+	Bc4	71 Rg1	Bd3
72 Rc1	Bc2		

Larsen points out here that 72 ... Kb3? would fail to 73 Rc3+.

73 Ka2	Be4 dis+		
74 Ka1	Bd3		

White resigned.

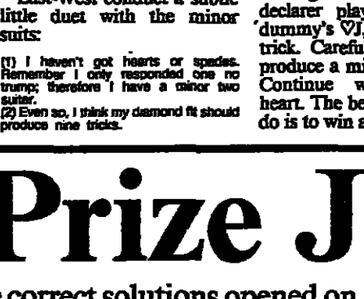
Raymond Keene

BRIDGE

"Even if you see that you've done the wrong thing in the bidding, keep your head in the play." Excellent, if well worn, advice, which those who should know better still sometimes ignore.

This hand from match play is a good example.

Love all. Dealer South.



There was no hint of drama when the hand was played in room I. These were the mild exchanges.

W	N	E	S
–	–	–	No
1♣	No	1NT	2♡
Double	No	3♡ (1)	No
3NT (2)	No	4♣ (3)	No
4◇ (4)	No	4NT (5)	No
5♣ (6)	No	No (7)	No

(1) Bad.
(2) Dubious.
(3) No, partner, I have a very distributional two suiter.
(4) Oh, well, if you insist. My diamonds are better than my clubs.
(5) My clubs are better than my diamonds, but I leave the choice to you.
(6) I do have two clubs.
(7) Thank you, partner.

East-West conduct a subtle little duet with the minor suits:

East-West conduct a subtle little duet with the minor suits:

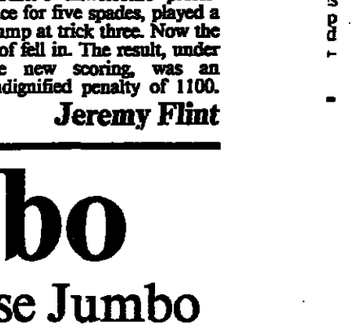
Keeping cool

The defence was not dynamic and East was delighted to emerge with 11 tricks and a score of +400. Unfortunately his team mates in the other room had been more adventurous in the bidding.

W	N	E	S
–	2♣	–	1♠
1NT	2♠	5♣	5♡ (1)
Double	5♠ (2)	No	No
Double	No	No	No

(1) Bad.
(2) Dubious.

South received the lead of the ◇K, and North received a slight scowl as he displayed his disappointing dummy. Having ruffed the first trick declarer played a heart to dummy's ♡J, which held the trick. Careful play will now produce a miraculous escape. Continue with a second heart. The best that West can do is to win and switch to the ♣J. If declarer ducks, East will overtake with the ♣Q and then force declarer to ruff by reverting to diamonds. Declarer ruffs, and continues with another heart. This is the position:



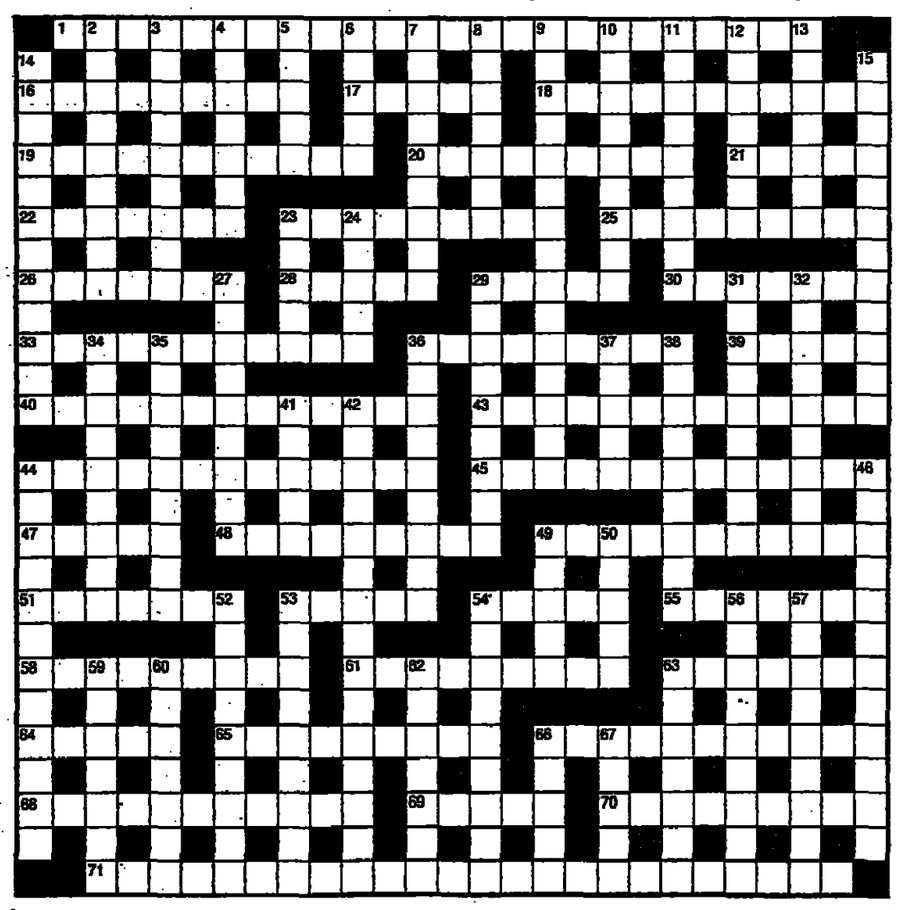
Doubtless West will try the ♣2. Declarer, who has lost three tricks, wins in dummy with the ♣A and ruffs a diamond. Now the hearts put West under the hammer. True, he can score the King and ten of spades for a three trick set, but the adverse swing would have been a negligible 3 IMPs.

At the table declarer, possibly disappointed by his partner's unwelcome preference for five spades, played a trump at trick three. Now the roof fell in. The result, under the new scoring, was an undignified penalty of 1100.

Jeremy Flint

The Times New Year Prize Jumbo

Prizes of £50 will be given for the first five correct solutions opened on Monday, January 18. Entries should be sent to The Times New Year Jumbo Crossword, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be published on January 23.



Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

Entries for the Prize Christmas Jumbo must arrive not later than first post on Monday January 11. The winners and solution will be published on January 16

ACROSS
1 Man of the Mountain according to Carlyle, sickly-looking but honest (3,3-5,13)
16 Put down the name of Edward — not the kind of bird that talks (9)
17 Plants musically associated with Dora (5)
18 Liqueur made by Arnold in the East (11)
19 Split personality, possibly, this countryman (11)
20 Like some clinics in a part of South Africa, about ten (9)
21 "Bare ruin'd ——s, where late the sweet birds sang" (Shakespeare) (5)
22 Clumsy boor receives no approval as a watchman (4-3)
23 Musical piece of small volume in the island, nothing more (9)
25 Shooting up fashionable guerrilla leader after reprimand (9)
26 Crafty operators these betting men? (7)
28 No bare-headed bird? (5)
29 Style many find exemplary (5)
30 Diana deserts a pharmacist for a poet (7)
33 Breaking codes a crime with such governments (11)
36 Once concerned about small gamble taken by boy (9)
39 Jack turns to the card to find his fortune (5)
40 Squares of Omar's chequer-board follow each other in this order (13)
43 After the wave, offshore vessel has its fair share of ups and downs (6-7)
44 Public relations girl, one falsely true to this rule of succession (13)
45 I cash in new gem arranging aid for Sister Susie (6-7)
47 True conservatives (5)
48 Samson's clue for "honey" (9)
49 More a form of ESP than a déjà vu experience (6,5)
51 Give new wine to the poor nag, making it a wild one (7)
53 The effrontery of Quilp's lawyer (5)
54 Drink that saved a cat from drowning in a well (5)
55 Inform on a fellow counter-jumper (7)
58 Using the same pitch one's entered UNO Intelligence (9)
61 Bar thinly disguised as a monster's lair (9)
63 A means of duplicating office work? Cut it out! (7)
64 A tax once of course (5)
65 Apt description of the chant "Give us back our eleven days" (9)
66 Iona's saint, one found in strange avian retreat (11)
68 Sight-tester Tom Potter is in trouble (11)
69 Singular card feat i' faith! (5)
70 Army leader fired one in favour of annulment (9)
71 God ha' mercy on such as are thus henceforth for ever accursed (6,4,4,2,8)

DOWN
2 He's out of order and terribly wrong in so describing foreign produce (4-5)
3 Sound quality of George's building material (9)
4 A region we hear that appears to have a magnetic influence (7)
5 Bones spread out in a circle (5)
6 Small and mischievous pupil in fine form (5)
7 One shortly absorbs a lot of Latin in this sort of hospital (9)
8 Utterly confused by style in which a part of Holy Writ appears (7)
9 A decent chap, the chief outlaw, Puck (5,10)
10 "Revenge his foul and most —— murder" (*Hamlet*) (9)
11 Hare bound, we hear, to provide harbour facilities (4-5)
12 Salisbury Plain transport for a dreamy Lord Chancellor (7)
13 Followers of Seven against Thebes find some little pig on it (7)
14 Most of the one-eyed giants died in Nice, perhaps? (So wide, one's knowledge) (12)
15 Grief mixed with a terror that has a chilling effect (12)
23 Many beginning to play with succulent plants (5)
24 Samuel emulates Tom, we hear (5)
27 Quality of Trollope's Allington house (or of its weak beer?) (9)
29 Bloomers put right in emergency call received by law-giver (4-5)
31 Appearances of men on the world stage (9)
32 Providing support for the proud walkers, so doing (9)
34 Alliances said to be of celestial provenance (9)
35 Business associations keep company with one, first of all (9)
36 Story, in reverse mostly, of the heroes of Lucknow (9)
37 Enter these old wooden articles for repair (5)
38 Papers evidencing men's inclusion in the same reductions (9)
41 This dragoman for instance is soundly lampooned (5)
42 Giuseppe Balsamo with changes to colouring, acts the charlatan (5,10)
44 One who did a walkabout — having first received the push in this? (12)
46 From the establishment angle men tend to cause a snarl-up (12)
49 Demonstrated how to separate the poles (5)
50 Difficulty round which the angler hopes to get (5)
52 Girl who might be dressed in this (9)
53 As a work of art it's not very outstanding (3-6)
54 Rose's endless season raising deer on the river (9)
56 Theatre activity gets works into trouble (9)
57 Workshop job for Denny "the Card"? It's wrong (9)
59 Spurred like the "lated traveller" when hostelry came in view, say (7)
60 Work it up first, then silence is best (7)
62 "A —— tar is a soaring soul" sang Ralph Rackstraw (7)
63 Unnamed Crimean blunderer (7)
66 No herald of a beggar's death according to *Calphurnia* (5)
67 Depart by the French thoroughfare (5)

Concise Jumbo Crossword

There are no prizes for this crossword. The solution will appear on Monday

ACROSS
1 King of Nepal (8,3,6,4,3)
16 Workforce (9)
17 Put ashes in jar (5)
18 Year (6,5)
19 Certain ground (4,7)
20 Movie insert (4,3,2)
21 Tiger/lion offspring (5)
22 Related to vision (7)
23 Beat hasty retreat (9)
25 Service cap thong (4,5)
26 Port (7)
28 Weird (5)
29 Banishment (5)
30 Greatly pleased (7)
33 Cups, saucers (3,8)
36 Principal valuable (4,5)
39 Highest Scottish ben (5)
40 Granadilla (7,6)
43 Bishop-led church members (13)
44 Holy Sepulchre Order member (6,7)
45 Fellowship (13)
47 Smallest (5)
48 Without tendons (9)
49 Becoming slower (Music) (11)
51 Whole unit (7)
53 Fools (5)
54 Der Freischutz composer (5)
55 Fur-trimmed cloak (7)
58 Eating raw food (9)
61 Choked (9)
63 Straggler (7)
64 Distinct (5)
65 Mild orange cheese (9)
66 Republican revolutionary (4,7)
68 Experiencing premonition (11)
69 Meeting president (5)
70 Female ballet dancers (9)
71 Wizard of Oz main song (6,3,6,5,4)

DOWN
2 Roman emperor (9)
3 By right of position (2,7)
4 Colour fleece (3,4)
5 Very much (Music) (5)
6 Moisture freezing (5)
7 British Gas symbol (4,5)
8 Set alight (7)
9 Objection to clergy influence (15)
10 Public display (9)
11 Second Coming expecter (9)
12 Cheek creases (7)
13 Dilute acetic acid (7)
14 Reaches pinnacle (4,2,3,3)
15 Foot treatment specialists (12)
23 Swedish turnip (5)
24 Before time (5)
27 Lush sounds (4,5)
29 Peaks (9)
31 Light source tree (6,3)
32 Monstrous beast (9)
34 Attacker (9)
35 Weimar Berlin assembly (9)
36 Extra spools (4,5)
37 — Distel (5)
38 Star east list (3,4,2)
41 Yellow citrus (5)
42 Cowboy style show (4,4,7)
44 Optical pattern toy (12)
46 Moves towards Orient (8,4)
49 Rise up (5)
50 Vividly detailed (5)
52 Verdi's "Le roi s'amuse" opera (9)
53 Buildings designer (9)
54 Vertical river cascade (9)
56 Law lord (5,4)
57 SEATO area (1,4,4)
59 Own characteristics (7)
60 UK Atomic Energy Research centre (7)
62 Viewpiece network (7)
63 Terse (7)
66 Soft drinks tube (5)
67 Depths (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1452
(yesterday's concise crossword)

ACROSS: 1 Stolid 4 Nearby 7 Luck 8 Inviting 9 Sloane Ranger 15 Aviary 16 Stroll 17 Ermine Street 23 Quisling 24 Aqua 25 Pestle 26 Threat

DOWN: 1 Sole 2 Occultism 3 Deign 4 Never 5 Acton 6 Binge 10 Apron 11 Altar 12 Grotesque 13 Role 14 Vale 18 Rouse 19 Inset 20 Exile 21 Tight 22 Wait

هكذا من الاصل

THE WEEK AHEAD



CINEMA

BUSY MAN: Marcello Mastroianni is on screen throughout *The Beekeeper* (18), though his words are few and his expressions limited to those of bewilderment, melancholy and despair. In this stark, haunting film by Greek director Theo Angelopoulos, he plays a schoolteacher whose hobby is keeping bees; he resigns his job and takes off with his hives on a meandering journey of self-discovery and disenchantment. A girl hitch-hiker, who lives only for the moment, provides intermittent company. Renoir (01-837 8402), from Friday.



ROCK

PRACTISING SCALES: Fish, the sturdy Scottish wood-chopper turned singer, leads Marillion into the the second leg of their British tour. The group's debt to the progressive legacy of Genesis circa 1978 is unmistakable, but since the breakthrough in 1985 with "Kayleigh" and the No 1 album, *Misplaced Childhood*, the Aylesbury quintet has built a huge following on its own peculiarly baroque account. Thursday, Capital Theatre, Aberdeen (0224 583141); Friday, Newcastle City Hall (091 261 2606).



OPERA

MID DE WINTER: Anne Williams-King sings the role of the second Mrs de Winter in Opera North's revival of *Rebecca*, the opera by Wilfred Josephs based on the famous novel by Daphne du Maurier. The company's first commissioned work was much admired on its debut but has not seen since 1983. In this revival Ann Howard plays Mrs Danvers and Peter Knapp is Maxim de Winter with David Lloyd Jones conducting. Grand Theatre, New Briggate, Leeds (0532 459351), tonight and on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.



THEATRE

SEX CHANGE: Tilda Swinton had a great success at the 1987 Edinburgh Festival in the Traverse Theatre production of *Man to Man*, originally *Jacke wie Hose*, by German author Manfred Karge. She comes to London this week with the one-woman show in which the character Ella, now old and isolated, recalls how she survived the Depression of the Thirties and the Second World War by assuming the identity of her dead husband, a crane driver and a wartime prison officer. Royal Court Theatre (01-730 1745), from Monday.



TELEVISION

SPY CATCHER: Robert Powell first played John Buchan's gentleman adventurer Richard Hannay in the 1979 film of *The Thirty-Nine Steps*. Now he is back for a television series, *Hannay*, a six-part spy thriller which makes use of the Buchan characters while supplying its own stories. It is 1912 and Hannay returns to Britain from a long sojourn in Africa to seek a bride, a home and a quiet life. But these laudable ambitions have to be set aside as he is soon embroiled in international intrigue. ITV, Wednesday, 9-10pm.



GALLERIES

BRAVE ART: This US cavalryman is by Andy Frost, one of several young sculptors whose work is more entertaining and ingenious than it is moving or profound. His recent painted wood carvings and assemblages, made during a three-month residency at Yorkshire Sculpture Park, depict cowboys and indians and are collectively entitled "If you can see 'em they ain't Apaches!". Some of the 10 pieces are cleverly camouflaged. They can be found — or not — at the park (0924 85302), near Wakefield, from Monday.

THEATRE

LONDON

AMERICAN EAGLE: Billed as "not the Christmas panto", a show written by and featuring Chris Amos, Sarah Hasnip, Martin Lewis, Ian Williams and David Young.
Old Red Lion, 418 St John Street, London EC1 (01-837 7816). Opens Tues.

BLACK LOVE SONGS: London première for a double bill of black American plays presented by the Temba Theatre Company. *Herbert III* is by Ted Shine and has a woman awaiting the late-night return of her loose-living son. *Black Love Song No 1* by Kalamu Ya Salaam explores the past and future for black people through an examination of stereotypes.
Young Vic Studio (01-928 6363). Preview Tues. Opens Wed.

BUD: Geoffrey Hutchings in a play written for him by Nick Darke. Platform performance preceding main show of the evening.
Lyttelton, National Theatre (01-928 2252). Mon and Tues.

CANDIDA: Frank Hauser's production of the George Bernard Shaw play, as seen at the King's Head Islington, with Maureen O'Brien and David Rintoul as the cleric and his wife and Grant Thatcher as the poet who falls in love with the wife.
Arts Theatre (01-836 3334). Previews from Wed. Opens Jan 12.

PHILADELPHIA HERE I COME: Brian Friel study of a young man's emotions on the point of emigrating from Ireland.
Corner Theatre, Hen & Chickens Pub, Highbury Corner, London N1 (01-226 3724). Opens Tues.

TURCARET (THE TAX FARMER): Ishia Bennison leads in John Norman's adaptation of a play by Alaine-René Lesage, part of the French classical repertory.
Gate Theatre Club, above Prince Albert Pub, 11 Pembridge Road, Notting Hill Gate, London W11 (01-229 0706). Opens Mon.

OUT OF TOWN

STOKE-ON-TRENT: Mr Whatnot: Alan Ayckbourn comedy inspired by the films of Charlie Chaplin.
New Victoria Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme (0782 615962).

CONCERTS

MORRIS/LSO: Wyn Morris conducts the LSO in such popular items as Rossini's *William Tell* Overture, Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No 2 (David Golub, soloist) and Beethoven's Symphony No 6 "Pastoral".
Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-628 8795, cc 01-638 8891). Today 7.45pm.

POULENC/WALTON: The Endymion Ensemble plays Poulenc's Sonatas for clarinet and bassoon and for trumpet, horn and trombone. In Walton's *Façade* the reciters are Prunella Scales and Ian Partridge.
Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore Street, London W1 (01-935 2141). Tomorrow 4pm.

HUGHES/HOUGH: In Dvorák's *Carnaval* Overture and Rimsky Korsakov's *Scheherazade* Suite the Philharmonia Orchestra is conducted by Owain Arwel Hughes, and in Mozart's Piano Concerto K 467 the soloist is Stephen Hough.
Barbican Centre. Tomorrow 7.30pm.

KASPRZYK CONCERT: Jacek Kasprzyk conducts the Hallé Orchestra in Schumann's *Manfred* Overture, Grieg's Piano Concerto (soloist, Murray Perahia) and Dvorák's Symphony No 9 "New World".
Free Trade Hall, Peter Street, Manchester (061 834 1712). Tomorrow 7.30pm.

TOVEY TIME: The Wren Orchestra is conducted by Bramwell Tovey in Mendelssohn's *Hebrides* Overture, Grieg's Piano Concerto (Craig Sheppard, soloist) and Dvorak's Symphony No.9 "New World".
Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191, cc 01-928 8800). Tomorrow 7.30pm.

GLOVER/RPO: Jane Glover conducts the RPO in Mozart's Symphony No 39, then the London Choral Society and soloists are added for Beethoven's Symphony No 9.
Barbican Centre. Tues 7.45pm.

SCHIFF'S SHOW: Andras Schiff, the pianist, performs Bach's English Suites Nos 1, 3 and 5, and all 15 Two-Part Inventions.
Wigmore Hall. Wed 7.30pm.

DAVIS/LSO: Sibelius's *Swan of Tuonela*, Symphony No 7 and Stravinsky's *Dumbarton Oaks* are heard from the LSO under Sir Colin Davis. In Grieg's Piano Concerto the soloist is Murray Perahia.
Barbican Centre. Wed 7.45pm.

ALL MOZART: John Eliot Gardner conducts the English Baroque Soloists in Mozart's Symphonies Nos 32 and 36 "Linz". Malcolm Bilson is at the fortepiano for the Pianoforte Concerto K 491.
Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191, cc 01-928 8800). Thurs 7.45pm.

THEME VARIATIONS: In the opening concert of the "Theme with Variations" series devoted to British music Sir Colin Davis conducts the LSO in Vaughan Williams's Tallis Fantasia, John William solos in the world première of Steve Gray's Guitar Concerto, and the end comes with Elgar's Symphony No 1.
Barbican Centre. Fri 7.45pm.

GALLERIES

JOE TILSON: Bright paintings and prints inspired by classical myths by a brilliant decorator.
Waddington Galleries, London W1 (01-437 8611). From Wed.

DANISH GRAPHIC ART: A touring show of contemporary work.
Aberystwyth Arts Centre (0970 4277). From today.

ALAN GOUK: Recent abstract paintings by a committed theorist of the genre.
Riverside Studios, London W6 (01-741 2251). From Wed.

20TH CENTURY DRAWINGS: A variety of approaches from Paul Nash to Lucian Freud designed to show the richness possible in this medium.
Birmingham City Museum and Art Gallery (021 235 2835). From Sun.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS: A bicentenary exhibition organised around artworks made by the first convicts to arrive in Botany Bay.
Natural History Museum, London SW7 (01-589 6323). From Wed.

MAISSE: ILLUSTRATIONS TO RONSARD: 126 lithographs based on the work of the 16th century lyric poet.
Buckinghamshire County Museum, Aylesbury (0296 88849). From today.

FABIAN PEAKE: Recent paintings of, oddly, computers, pianos and plastic houses.
Frances Graham-Dixon Gallery, London EC1 (01-250 1962). From Fri.

DANCE

ROYAL BALLET: Rudolf Nureyev and the youngest of his stars at the Paris Opera, Sylvie Guillem, come as guests for *Giselle* (Wed and Thurs).
Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1066).

SADLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET: A two-week season opens with David Bintley's *Snow Queen* (Mon to Jan 9).
Sadler's Wells Theatre, London EC1 (01-278 8916).

LONDON FESTIVAL BALLET: The *Nutcracker* season continues for two more weeks.
Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191).

SCOTTISH BALLET: Another *Nutcracker*, Peter Darrell's production with designs by Philip Prowse.
Theatre Royal, Glasgow (041-331 1234). Wed to Jan 16.

NORTHERN BALLET THEATRE: Two more performances of *Swan Lake* at Northampton today. Then *Alice In Wonderland* and *Aurora's Wedding* at Sheffield, Tues to Jan 9.
Derngate, Northampton (0604 24811). City Hall, Sheffield (0742 735295).

FILMS ON TV

KRAMER VERSUS KRAMER (1979): Meryl Streep and Dustin Hoffman in Robert Benton's polished drama about estranged parents battling over the custody of their young son.
BBC2, Tues, 9-10.40pm.



● **Ed Harris as the astronaut John Glenn in *The Right Stuff*, Philip Kaufman's 1983 film about the American space race from the best-selling novel by Tom Wolfe. A handsomely mounted three-hour epic, which is having its British television premiere, *The Right Stuff* mixes irreverence and with flag-waving patriotism and it grips all the way. With Sam Shepard. BBC1, Mon, 10.10-11.45pm, and Wed, 10.20-11.45pm.**

THE VANISHING CORPORAL (1962): Jean-Pierre Cassel in Jean Renoir's wryly humorous study of a French soldier's attempts to escape from a German prison camp.
BBC2, Fri, 11.20pm-1.10am.

ROCK

WHITESNAKE: David Coverdale's reptilian collective had sold more than five million copies of *Whitesnake 1987* before even starting this British tour. Tonight and tomorrow, NEC, Birmingham (021 780 4133); Mon and Tues, Newcastle City Hall (091 261 2606); Thurs and Fri, Edinburgh Playhouse (031 557 2590).

ECHO AND THE BUNNYMEN: Tickets for the original dates, postponed in October after Ian McCulloch's on-stage accident, are valid for these rescheduled shows.
Thurs, NEC, Birmingham (021 780 4133); Fri, Free Trade Hall, Manchester (061 834 0943).

JAZZ

HUMPHREY LYTTELTON: a special concert marks the trumpeter's 40th anniversary as a bandleader.
Barbican Centre, London, EC1 (01-628 8795). Thurs.

GEORGE COLEMAN: One of the heavyweights of the contemporary saxophone. A newly-released album captures his performance at Frith Street in 1979.
Ronnie Scott's Club, London, W1 (01-439 8722), Mon-Sat.

LOOSE TUBES: The anarchic orchestra has just completed the recording of a new LP, "Open Letter".
Snape Maltings, Aldeburgh, tonight; St David's Hall, Cardiff (0222 371236), Thurs.

TELEVISION

CLARENCE: Ronnie Barker dons thick pebble glasses to play a myopic removal man in a new sitcom, written by Bob Ferris and set on Coronation Day 1937.
BBC2, Mon, 9-9.30pm.

'AN AFFAIR IN MIND: Amanda Donohoe (from *Castaway*) and Stephen Dillon in Ruth Rendell's romantic thriller about a novelist's obsession with a beautiful girl.
BBC1, Tues, 9.30-11pm.

THE WAR IN KOREA: Max Hastings presents a four-part series on the "forgotten war" of the 1950s whose repercussions could overshadow the 1988 Olympics.
BBC2, Thurs, 8.10-9pm.

WOODY GUTHRIE: An *Arena* profile of the Dustbowl poet, including a 1942 interview with Alan Lomax and the memories of family and friends.
BBC2, Fri, 9.30-10.35pm.

FILMS

FOUR ADVENTURES OF REINETTE AND MIRABELLE (U): Eric Rohmer's latest *divertissement* — four improvised episodes in the lives of two girls, the rural Mirabelle (Jessica Forde) and the urban Reinette (Joëlle Miquel). Chelsea (01-351 3742), from Fri.

THE STEPFATHER (18): Drama from thriller writer Donald E Westlake, with Terry O'Quinn as the psychotic striving for a new identity after murdering his family. Directed by Joseph Ruben; with Jill Schoelen and Shelley Hack.
Cannon Haymarket (01-839 1527), Cannon Tottenham Court Road (01-636 6148), from Fri.

THE WOO WOO KID (PG): Allegedly based on truth, a comedy about a Californian teenager with an eye for married women. Written and directed by Phil Alden Robinson; with Patrick Dempsey, Talia Balsam, Beverly D'Angelo. Prince Charles (01-437 8181), Cannon Tottenham Court Road (01-636 6148), from Fri.

OPERA

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: *Der Rosenkavalier* returns on Thurs (7pm) in a restaging by Keith Warner, with Christian Badea conducting.
Meanwhile, Jonathan Miller's *Barber of Seville* prances through its run tonight, Tues and Fri (7.30pm), with *Rigoletto* on Wed.
Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-836 3161).

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: New production by Jean-Pierre Ponnelle of Rossini's *L'Italiana in Algeri* starts the New Year at Covent Garden (see page 18). First night tonight at 7.30pm, then Tues and Fri.
Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1066).

RADIO

THE CHAMBERLAIN TRILOGY: The story of three remarkable politicians, Joe, Austen and Neville Chamberlain, told by Enoch Powell.
Radio 4, tomorrow, 4-4.47pm.

THE FIFTH MOST POWERFUL MAN IN EUROPE: A portrait of Tom Jones, the Welsh civil servant whose diaries give a unique insight into the workings of British government.
Radio 4, Tues, 7.20-8pm.



● **Gracie Fields, who would have been 90 this week, is remembered in *Our Gracie*, a tribute introduced by Russell Harty. Born over a fish and chip shop in Rochdale, Gracie became a star of music hall and the cinema and despite spending her later life on the island of Capri never forgot her Lancashire roots. Among those paying homage are Rochdale's current MP and a close friend, Cyril Smith.**
Radio 2, Tuesday, 9-10pm.

PHOTOGRAPHY

LET US NOW PRAISE FAMOUS WOMEN: Eight women's photographic record of American life during the 1930s and 1940s including work by Marion Post Wolcott and the legendary Dorothea Lange. An invaluable source of documentary evidence for the period.
Side Gallery, 9 Side, Newcastle (091 232 2208). Until Jan 31.

TRANSPORT IN CAMERA: 120 photographs dating from the 1860s which highlight the human element in London's transport history; Derby day scenes, Piccadilly Circus, wartime and more.
London Transport Museum, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-379 6344). Until May 2.

WALKS

KENSINGTON, A ROYAL LONDON VILLAGE: meet today, High Street Kensington tube, 2pm, £2.25.

HAMPSTEAD VILLAGE AND THE HEATH: meet tomorrow, Hampstead tube, 11am, £2.50.

THE HAUNTED CITY: meet tomorrow, St Paul's, 2pm, £2.25.

RING IN THE NEW YEAR SPECIAL: meet tomorrow, Museum of London, 2.30pm, £3.

BOOKINGS

FIRST CHANCE

ROYAL BALLET: Personal and phone booking from today for Feb/March performances of *Giselle*. Choreography by Ashton, David Bintley and Kenneth MacMillan.
Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1066/1911).

ROYAL OPERA: Booking for Feb/March performances of *Parsifal* in new production by Bill Bryden with Haitink conducting; *Jenufa*; and *Un Ballo in Maschera*. Royal Royal Opera House (01-240 1066/1911).

LAST CHANCE

MANNERS AND MORALS: Hogarth and British painting, 1700-60, with 200 works, more than 30 by Hogarth, including Rake's Progress, and works from Thomas Coram Foundation collection.
Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (01-821 1313). Ends tomorrow.

DAZZLE: 54 designers exhibit jewellery and accessories for men, made from wood and plastic, gold and gemstones. Works for sale.
Royal Exchange, St Ann's Square, Manchester (061 833 9333). Ends tomorrow.

Theatre: Tony Patrick; Films: Geoff Brown; Concerts: Max Harrison; Opera: Hilary Finch; Rock: David Sinclair; Jazz: Clive Davis; Dance: John Percival; Galleries: David Lee; Photography: Mike Young; Walks: Penny Osborn; Television, Radio and Films on TV: Peter Waymark; Bookings: Anne Whitehouse.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 22

MISTIGRIS
(a) A poker game using the joker, or the joker card himself.
AMA
(b) A wine receptacle for the Eucharist in early Christendom.
LECHWE
(a) The white-bellied antelope, almost as big as the related waterbuck, from Sasuto *letsa*.
APPANAGE
(b) Estates or income granted to a younger member of the royal family, from Middle Latin *appanagium*, ultimately from Latin *panis*, (to provide with) bread.

National anthems



Ralph Vaughan Williams (above left) and Edward Elgar (above right) are among British composers in a new musical season

Music may be the "universal language" of fond imagination, but musical life is still, by and large, organized on highly nationalist lines. So one greets another "celebration of British music" — replete with stacks of Elgar, Vaughan Williams, Walton and Britten mostly played by the LSO — with some misgivings. Celebration in this case inevitably seems more like complacency, chauvinism or insularity: the British musical establishment patting itself on the back.

Yet one remarkable fact about British composers is that so many of them originated from outside the establishment. They struggled, confronted official bewilderment, mockery or outright hostility, and eventually won recognition without ever quite losing their outsider status. In sum, they constitute more of a counter-culture to British political and social life than its accepted culture.

Too far-fetched? Well, Elgar was a provincial bandmaster, self-taught and psychologically crippled by a melancholia that hardly accords with the imperial triumphalism commonly detected in his music. And Vaughan Williams's symphonies exhibit a stubborn humanitarianism that invariably ran opposite to the prevailing climate.

A London Symphony, for instance, is a portrait of despair and loneliness in the "land fit for heroes", not a pageant of Merrie England. The Fourth Symphony, written in 1935, seems prophetic in its unresolved violence. Then at the height of the war, when blood-lust against all things Teutonic was the officially-encouraged line, Vaughan Williams produced his serene Fifth Symphony — a document almost glowing with transcendential joy. Conversely, when Britain celebrated victory, Vaughan Williams's Sixth Symphony seemed shot through with the horrors of Hiroshima, its finale almost nihilistic in its meandering bleakness.

Then came Tippett, who went to prison for his pacifist views, and Britten, whose relationship with the establishment was epitomised by the indignant resentment caused in court circles by his "Coronation" opera, *Gloriana*. Delius preferred not to live in Britain at all; Birtwistle and Maxwell Davies have had uneasy relationships with the musical establishment, for all their current esteem.

There are several premières in this series, by Steve Gray (whose Guitar Concerto for his former Sky colleague John Williams is the centrepiece of the opening concert, at the Barbican on Friday), John Golland, Robert Saxton, Jonathan Harvey, Mark-Anthony Turnage and Harrison Birtwistle (who has his own BBC festival at the Barbican next week). Other composers of the younger generation are also featured — Knussen, Bawden, Holt, Matthews, Holloway, Benjamin, Finnissy, Wilby — as well as the premiere of a new British musical, *Orlando*, at the Guildhall School of Music.

Will this new generation be seen as heirs or rebels? Almost certainly the former, one would think. In their different ways Elgar, Britten and Birtwistle raised the craft of composition in this country to unprecedented heights of professional expertise. Today's new breed benefits from that. A dazzling virtuosity of orchestral technique is what one notices first about their output, rather than a desire to shock or to stand alone. Perhaps British composers no longer feel like outsiders.

Richard Morrison

"A theme with variations — a celebration of British music" opens on Friday and continues until June at the Barbican, the South Bank, the Royal Opera House (which stages Tippett's *The Knot Garden*) and English National Opera (Britten's *Billy Budd*).

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

Continued from facing page

SATURDAY

BBC1 **WALES** 5.15-5.20pm Sports News Wales 5.20-5.45 Invasion 9.25-10.10 The Magic of Vienna 10.10-10.35 Monty Python's Flying Circus 10.35-12.15am Film: The Thomas Crown Affair 12.15-12.20 News of Wales. **SCOTLAND** 5.15-5.20pm News and Sport 9.25-9.55 Sportscene 9.55-11.55 Film: Murder on the Orient Express 11.55-12.25 To the Manor Born 12.25-12.30 Weather. **NORTHERN IRELAND** 4.55-5.05pm Northern Ireland Results 5.15-5.20 Inside Ulster Newsline 1.10-1.15am News headlines. **ENGLAND** 5.15-5.20pm South and East (London) — Sport; South and East (Plymouth) and all other English regions — Regional News and Sport.

ANGLIA As London except:12.30pm-1.00 America's Top Ten Singles of '87.

BORDER As London except:12.30pm-1.00 America's Top Ten Singles of '87 12.30am Closedown.

CENTRAL As London except:10.55am-1.00pm Film: Starflight One 12.30am Prisoner Cell Block H 1.25 Film: The Adventurers 4.30 News, Jobfinder.

CHANNEL As London except:12.30pm-1.00 Survival of the Fittest 4.00am Company, Closedown.

GRAMPIAN As London except:12.30pm-1.00 ALF 12.30am Reflections, Closedown.

GRANADA As London except:12.30pm-1.00 America's Top Ten Singles of '87 12.30am Film: File of the Golden Goose 2.25 America's Top Ten Singles of '87 2.55 Closedown.

HTV WEST As London except:12.30pm-1.00 America's Top Ten Singles of '87 12.30am Film: Bittersweet Love 2.10 Closedown.

HTV WALES As HTV West except:No variations.

SCOTTISH As London except:12.30pm-1.00 America's Top Ten Singles of '87 12.30am Late Call, Closedown.

TSW As London except:12.30pm-1.00 America's Top Ten Singles of '87 12.30am Postscript, Closedown.

TVS As London except:12.30pm-1.00 Survival of the Fittest 4.00am Company, Closedown.

TYNE TEES As London except:10.55am-1.00 Film: The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance 12.30am At the Maintenance Shop 1.30 Poetry of the People 1.40 Closedown.

ULSTER As London except:12.30pm-1.00 Knight Rider 4.55-5.00 Sports Results 12.25am Newstime, Closedown.

YORKSHIRE As London except:12.30pm-1.00 Small Wonder 12.30am Film: Blood on Satan's Claw 2.15 Closedown.

S4C Starts:9.25am Film: Moghul-e-Azam 1.00pm Odyssey 2.00 The Pearl 2.25 Film: Zorba the Greek' 5.00 Wynford 6.00 Right to Reply 7.00 Houseful of Plants 7.30 Newyddion 7.50 Y Maryef Mantrus 8.20 Gwyl Gorawl Cymru 9.20 Y Mass Chwarae 10.20 Golden Girls 10.50 Maya Angelou in Performance 11.45 Film: Network 2.00 Closedown.

SUNDAY

BBC1 **WALES** 12.35pm-12.55 Fanning in Wales 12.05am-12.10 News, weather, close **SCOTLAND** 12.35pm-12.55 Landward 3.00-4.00 Sportscene 57 4.20-5.00 Challenge Anneka 5.00-5.05 Cartoon 12.05am News and weather **NORTHERN IRELAND** 5.05pm-5.30 Working Holiday 12.05am-12.10 News and weather.
BBC2 **WALES** 2.00pm-3.00 Rugby Special (highlights of Aberavon v Swansea)

ANGLIA As London except:1.00pm Link 1.15 Broscope Bygones 1.20 News 1.30-2.00 Farming Diary 12.30am 9 to 5 2.05-4.10 Film: Night of the Iguana".

BORDER As London except:1.00pm Picnic at Whitehall 1.30 Cartoon 1.45-2.00 Link 12.30am Closedown.

CENTRAL As London except:1.00pm News 1.05-1.15 Central Post 1.30-2.00 Here and Now 12.30am Prisoner Cell Block H 1.25 Donahue 2.20 Film: The Orchard End Murder 3.20 News, Jobfinder.

CHANNEL As London except:1.00pm Link 1-15 Les Français Chez-Vous 1.30-2.00 Farm Focus 12.30am Agatha Christie's Murder With Mirrors 2.15 Company, Closedown.

GRAMPIAN As London except:11.00am Struggle Beneath the Sea 11.30-12.00 A Touch of Music 1.00pm Fanglace 1.40-2.00 Link 12.30am Reflections, Closedown.

GRANADA As London except:1.00pm Members Only 1.05 This Is Your Right 1.35 Asp Kas Hak 1.40-2.00 Link 10.30 RL Action — Scrumdown 11.30 Snooker 12.30am Closedown.

HTV WEST As London except:1.00pm The Blue Hal 1.30 Cartoon 1.45-2.00 Link 12.30am Closedown.

HTV WALES As HTV West except:No variations.

SCOTTISH As London except:11.00am The Velveteen Rabbit 11.30-12.00 The Smurfs 1.00pm Glen Michael Cavalcade 1.40 Link 2.00-2.30 Profile 12.30am Late Call, Closedown.

TSW As London except:1.00pm Poets In The Sky 1.10 Farming News 1.45-2.00 Link 6.00-6.00 Crazy Like A Fox 12.30am Sunday Review, Closedown.

TVS As London except:1.00pm Link 1.15 Action 1.30-2.00 Farm Focus 12.30am Agatha Christie's Murder with Mirrors 2.15 Company, Closedown.

TYNE TEES As London except:1.00pm Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous (James Stewart) 1.30 Cartoon 1.40-2.00 Link 12.30am Epilogue, Closedown.

ULSTER As London except:1.00pm Words of Hope 1.30 Ask Anna 1.45-2.00 Link 5.00-6.00 Crazy Like A Fox 12.30am Newstime, Closedown.

YORKSHIRE As London except:1.00pm Cartoon 1.10 Link 1.25-2.00 Farming Diary 6.00-6.00 Crazy Like A Fox 10.30 Scrumdown 11.30 Snooker 12.30am Five Minutes 12.35 Closedown.

S4C Starts:9.00am Hafoc 10.00 Christo's Valley Cartoon 12.00 The Waltons 1.00pm Arwyddion Flyrdd 1.30 The Six-Sided Triangle' 2.05 Andres Segovia 3.05 Anne of Green Gables 5.00 Wynford 6.00 Gymnastics 7.20 Newyddion 7.30 Rhaglen Hywel Gwynfryn 8.10 Pobol Y Cwm 8.40 Dechrau Canu, Dechrau Canmol 9.10 Hel Straeon 9.40 Gwyl Gorawl Cymru 10.40 Si Bissewhere 11.35 American Football 1.00am Closedown.

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

SATURDAY

● Channel 4 has been much derided for its devotion to such fashionable causes as women, gays, Asians and blacks. But as the departing chief executive, Jeremy Isaacs, makes clear in Right to Reply Special (Channel 4, 6.00pm) whatever you do, you cannot win. Channel 4 has a statutory commitment to produce programmes for minority groups, and Isaacs has done his best to comply. But the gays and feminists say it is still not enough, while 61 per cent of the channel's viewers, according to a poll, think there should be no programmes for gays at all. Interviewed by Gus Macdonald on his five years at the helm, Isaacs is spared nothing in critical examination, admits mistakes and robustly defends his commitment to the innovative and the experimental. He says viewers are not nearly as shocked by sex and bad language as the tabloid press likes to make out, and his advice to his successor, Michael Grade, is unequivocal: "Do not play safe in order to increase audience figures". No one can accuse Isaacs of playing safe, and Channel 4 has been fortunate to have had his shrewd and articulate guidance in its formative years.

Peter Waymark

CHOICE



Jeremy Isaacs (left) is interviewed by Gus Macdonald in Right to Reply Special, on Channel 4, at 6.00pm

BBC1

8.20 Roobarb (r). **8.25** Saturday Starts Here with *Comers*, presented by Simon Davies **8.40** Roland's Rat Race **9.00** The Muppet Babies. **9.30** Going *Live!* Music, videos, games and cartoons. **12.12** Weather.

12.15 Grandstand introduced by Desmond Lynam. The line-up is (subject to alteration): **12.20** Football Focus; **12.50** News; **12.55, 1.25, 1.55** and **2.25** Racing from Newbury; **1.10** Sports round up; **1.40** and **2.10** Ski Jumping from Garmisch; **2.40** Skiing from Schladming; **3.00** Ice Hockey: Fife Flyers v Durham Wasps; **3.50** Half-times; **3.55** Basketball from Leicester; **4.40** Final score.

5.05 News and weather. **5.15** Regional news/sport.

5.20 Rolf Harris Cartoon Time.

5.45 Jim'll Fix It. In this first of a new series Jimmy Savile fixes it for, among others, an 11-year-old from Suffolk to appear in an episode of *EastEnders*. (Ceefax)

6.20 Hi-de-Hil Spike is worried about his lost talent to amuse. (Ceefax)

6.50 Bob's Full House. (Ceefax)

7.25 The Paul Daniels Magic Show. The first of a new series. (Ceefax)

8.10 Meet the Neighbours. The personalities of the Australian daily soap.

8.15 Bergerac. The Jersey detective is assigned to look after a supergrass's mother who *is in danger of being* kidnapped by a vengeful gang leader. (Ceefax)

9.10 News, sport and weather.

9.25 Film: Uncommon Valour (1983) starring Gene Hackman and Robert Stack. After 10 years Colonel Rhodes is certain that his son is still alive in a prisoner-of-war camp in Laos and collects a crack team of Vietnam War veterans to go and rescue him.

11.05 Monty Python's Flying Circus (r).

11.35 The Thomas Crown Affair *(1968)* starring Steve McQueen and Faye Dunaway. Glossy story of a bored millionaire who finds diversions in robbing banks. Directed by Norman Jewison.

1.10 Weather.

BBC2

9.00 Ceefax 10.35 Open University.

1.30 Film: Sun Valley Serenade (1941, b/w) starring Glenn Miller and Sonja Henie. Musical romance set in the winter sports resort of Sun Valley. Directed by Milton Sperling.

2.55 Film: The Best Things in Life Are Free (1956) starring Gordon MacRae, Dan Dailey and Ernest Borgnine. A biopic of the songwriting team of De Sylva, Brown and Henderson. Directed by Michael Curtiz.

4.35 Defeat into Victory. The story of American Dennis Connor's fight to regain the America's Cup trophy he lost to Australia in 1983. The *narrator is Charlton* Heston.

6.05 International Bridge Club presented by Clare Harrison. Featuring Tony Forrester, Sami Kehela, Zia Mahmood and P.O.Sundelin.

6.35 NewsView. Philip Hayton with today's news and sport; Richard Whitmore reviews the week's news in pictures with subtitles.

7.15 Schubert. The first of a new series. Jane Glover introduces a performance of Schubert's Symphony *No 9 in C major, D944, by* the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra conducted by Kurt Masur.

8.15 Artists and Models. The first of three films set in a Paris studio, starring James Laurenson as Jacques-Louis David (r).

9.35 Film: Marlene (1983). A detailed interview of Marlene Dietrich by *actor/director Maximilian* Schell, recorded, on Dietrich's demand, in sound only. The vision is made up of clips from *her memorable film* moments and newsreel clips of her wartime tours. Directed by Maximilian Schell. (In German with English subtitles)

11.10 Film: The Blue Angel (1930, b/w) starring Marlene Dietrich and Emile Jannings. The classic story of an ageing professor who becomes captivated *by a conniving night club* singer. He gives up his job in order to tour with her and is soon in a servile position. Directed by Josef Von Sternberg. (In German with English subtitles). Ends at **1.00.**

ITV/LONDON

6.00 TV-am.

9.25 Here Come the Puppets! **10.25** No 73. Entertainment for the young.

10.55 Film: Duncan's World (1978) starring Larry Tobias, Billy Tobias and Calvin Brown Jr. Adventure story about a mystery explosion at a Nature Museum. Directed by John Clayton. **12.20** Punky Brewster. The exploits of an orphan and her adoptive grandfather.

1.00 News.

1.05 Saint & Greavsie. Ian and Jimmy review the week's football news and look forward to the weekend's programme. **1.35** Wrestling from King George's Hall, Blackburn.

2.15 Darts and Snooker. Dickie Davies introduces coverage of the MFI British Darts Open and the Mercantile Credit *Snooker Classic.*

4.45 Results service.

5.00 News.

5.05 Walt Disney Presents. Two cartoons.

5.20 Blockbusters.

5.50 Film: Dr Syn Alias the Scarecrow (1963) starring Patrick McGoohan, George Cole and Michael Hordern. Adventure set in 18th century southern England where the ruthless *General Pugh is sent* by King George III to bring to heel a band of smugglers known as the Gentlemen led by a mysterious masked horseman. Directed by James Nielson. (Oracle)

7.40 The Cannon and Ball Special. Tommy and Bobby's guests are David Essex, Rick Astley and Denis Quilley.

8.40 News and sport.

9.00 London's Burning, by Jack Rosenthal. A black comedy set in an inner London fire station where the men of Blue Watch *anxiously await a* replacement who turns out to be a woman (r). (Oracle)

11.00 Snooker. Fourth round action in the Mercantile Credit Classic.

12.30 Sledge Hammer. Police spoof series.

1.00 Night Network. Videos, interviews, competitions, cartoons and guests.

4.00 Film: *Gambit (1966)* starring Michael Caine, Shirley MacLaine and Herbert Lom. Comedy thriller about an elaborate plot to steal a priceless statue. Directed by Ronald Neame. Ends at **6.00.**

CHANNEL 4

9.25 Film: Mughal-E-Azam (1960, colour and b/w). Classic Indian drama about a Mogul emperor and his son's love for a court dancing girl. Starring Prithvi Raj, Dilip Kumar and Madhubala. Directed by K Asif. (English subtitles).

1.00 Film: She Done Him Wrong (1933, b/w) starring Cary Grant and Mae West. Romantic comedy about a Bowery beerhall entertainer and a crusading young man trying to reform the regulars. Directed by Lowell Sherman.

2.15 Film: Lord Jim (1965) starring Peter O'Toole and James Mason. Joseph Conrad's drama *about a mariner* wrongly accused of cowardice who goes to the Far East in search of spiritual redemption. Directed by Richard Brooks.

5.05 Brookside (r) (Oracle).

6.00 Right to Reply Special: The Jeremy Isaacs Interview. (see Choice)

7.00 News summary and weather followed by Anne of Green Gables. Episode one of a two-part Canadian-made version of Lucy Maud Montgomery's novel *set in Canada at the turn-*of-the-century (r).

8.50 An Evening with the Family. An animated film from Sweden.

9.00 A Fine Romance. Domestic comedy series (r). (Oracle)

9.30 Opera on Four: The Magic Flute. Ingmar Bergman's film version of Mozart's opera, made in 1974. The cast includes Josef Kostlinger, Irma Urrila, Håkan Hagegard, Elisabeth Eriksson, Birgit Nordin and Ulrik Cold. With the *Swedish Radio* Symphony Orchestra and Chorus conducted by Eric Ericson.

11.55 Film: Network (1976) starring Faye Dunaway, William Holden, Peter Finch and Robert Duvall. A powerful drama about the power and corruption of American network television with Finch, in his last screen role, *playing the part of a* veteran newscaster who, after being sacked because his show has poor ratings, threatens to blow his brains out while on air. Directed by Sidney Lumet. Ends at **2.10.**

Radio 1

MW (medium wave) Stereo on VHF *(see below)*
News on the half-hour until **12.30pm**, then at **2.00, 3.30, 5.30, 7.30, 9.30** and **12.00 midnight.**
6.00am *Nicky Campbell (new* series) **8.00** Peter Powell **10.00** Mike Read **1.00pm** Adrian Juste **2.00** The Stereo Sequence. Includes **2.00-3.00** My Top Ten Classics (Andy Peebles talks to Sting) **4.00-5.00** The New American Chart Show **6.30-7.30** In Concert (Elvis Costello and the Attractions) **7.30** Robbie Vincent **10.00-1.20** Mark Goodier.
VHF Stereo Radios 1 and 2: **4.00am** As Radio 2 **1.00pm** As Radio 1 **7.30-4.00am** As Radio 2.

Radio 2

MW (medium wave). Stereo on VHF (see Radio 1)
News on the hour until **1.00pm**, then at **3.00, 6.00, 7.00** and hourly from **10.00**
4.00am Dave Bussey **6.00** Graham Knight **8.05** David Jacobs **9.00** *Sounds of the 60s* (Simon Dee) **10.00** Anne Robinson **12.00** Gerald Harper **1.00pm** Radio Active's Radio Radio Programme, with special guest John Peel) **1.30** Sport on 2. *The 40th anniversary of* Sports Report. Includes Racing from Newbury, **5.00** Sports Report **6.00** A Wealth of Wisdom (Norman Wisdom) **6.30** Juke-Box Saturday *Night* **7.00** *Beat the Record* **7.30** Russian Classics (BBC Concert Orchestra) **9.30** String Sound **10.05** Martin Kelner **12.05am** Dave Gelly **1.00** Alan Dedicoat **3.00-4.00** A Little Night Music

WORLD SERVICE

All programme times given in GMT
6.00am Newsdesk **6.30** Londres Matin **7.00** News **7.09** Twenty-Four Hours **7.30** From the Weeklies **7.45** Network UK **8.00** News **8.09** Reflections **8.15** A Jolly Good Show **9.00** News **9.09** Review of British Press **9.15** The Interlopers **9.30** Financial Special followed by Sports Roundup **9.45** Personal View **10.00** News **10.01** Hare's Humphl **10.15** Letter From America **10.30** People and Politics **11.00** News **11.09** News About Britain **11.15** A-Z of Hollywood **11.30** Londres Midi **12.00** Radio Newsreel **12.15** Multitrack 3 **12.45** Sports Roundup **1.00** News **1.09** Twenty-Four Hours **1.30** Network UK **1.45** Good Books **2.00** *News 2.01 Album Time* **2.30** Sportsworld **3.00** Radio Newsreel **3.15** Sportsworld **4.00** News **4.09** Commentary **4.15** Sportsworld **5.00** News **5.01** Sportsworld **5.15** English by Radio **5.45** Londres Sor **6.30** Heute Aktuell **8.00** News **8.09** Twenty-Four Hours **8.30** Meridian **9.00** News **9.01** Health Matters **9.15** *Mozart Miscellany* **9.30** People and Politics **10.00** World News **10.09** From Our Own Correspondent **10.25** Book Choice **10.30** *New Ideas* **10.40** Reflections **10.45** Sports Roundup **11.00** News **11.09** Commentary **11.15** Nature Notebook **11.30** Anything Goes **12.00** News **12.09** News About Britain **12.15** Radio Newsreel **12.30** Play of the Week: Uncle Vanya **2.00** News **2.09** Sunday Papers **2.15** *I've Been Together* Now for 70 Years **2.30** Album Time **3.00** World News **3.09** News About Britain **3.15** From Our Own Correspondent **3.30** Back to Square One **4.00** Newsdesk **4.30** Six Four Eight **4.35** Morgenmagazin **5.45** Letter From America.

Regional TV: on facing page

Radio 3

6.55 Weather **7.00** News
7.05 *Morning Concert:* Alfven (Dance of the Shepherdess: Stockholm PO under Westerberg), Glinka (Trio pathétique in D minor: Borodin Trio), Chaminade (Flute Concertino: played by Galway and RPO under Dutoit), Glazunov (Oriental Rhapsody: Moscow SO under Veronika Dudarova)
8.00 World Service News
8.10 Concert (part two): Smyth (Two Interlinked French Folk Melodies: Light SO under Adrian Boult), Pierné (Concertstück, Op 39: Challon, harp and Paris Conservatoire Orchestra under Cluytens), Satie (Jack in the Box: Brownridge, piano), Canteloube (fifth series, Songs of the Auvergne: Kiri Te Kanawa with the ECO) **9.00** News
9.05 Record Review: Includes Stephan Dodgson's guide to recordings of Schubert's *String Quartet in A minor, D* 804. Presented by Paul Vaughan
10.15 Stereo Release: Süssmayr completion of *Mozart's Requiem, K* 626 (English Baroque Soloists, Monteverdi Choir, and soloists), and Beethoven's Calm Sea *and Prosperous Voyage* (Berlin RSO, Ernst Senetf Chamber Choir)
11.15 Royal Liverpool Philharmonic: with Jeffrey Kahane (piano): Vaughan Williams (Fantasia on theme by Tallis), Mozart (Piano Concerto No 24), Roger Marsh (Still), Beethoven (Symphony No 8) **1.00** News
1.05 Sacred and Profane Harmonies: part one — early Italian songs and sonatas. Works by Claudio Saracini, Giovanni Leoni, Carlo Mannelli, Giovanni Felice Sances, John Ravenscroft, and Monteverdi (with singer Judith Nelson, soprano). At **2.00**, works that commemorate *Monteverdi's* assistant in Venice, Alessandro Grandi, including his Apra Thucomo Infelice. Also works by *Marini, and Giovanni* Riccio
2.40 Haitink Conducts: Amsterdam Concertgebouw in performances of *Debussy's Jeux, Bloch's* Schelomo, for cello and orchestra (with Lynn Harrell, cello), and Bruckner's Symphony No 8
5.00 Jazz Record Requests: with Peter Clayton
5.45 Critics' Forum: topics include the new film of Little Dorrit; and Vicky *cartoons at the National* Portrait Gallery, in the chair: William Feaver
6.35 Piano recital: Dennis Lee plays Beethoven's Bagatelles Op 126; and Tippett's Sonata No 2
7.10 Ayres and Divisions: Rose Consort play ayres to the organ (Tim Roberts, organ) by John Jenkins, Christopher Simpson, and Tomkins
7.45 The Time of My Life: the late Hans Keller recalls his experiences in Vienna in the Hitler years
8.05 A Child of Our Time: Michael Tippett's oratorio (the composer is 83 today). Bavarian Radio Chorus and Symphony Orchestra, under Colin Davis, with soloists Pamela Coburn, Hanna Schwarz, Neil Rosenshein, and Peter Meven
9.220 *Don Juan:* Ronald Pickup reads part one of a 12-part *arrangement of* Lord Byron's work
9.50 Franz Schmidt: Quintet in A, *played by members of* Allegri Quartet, with Thea King (clarinet), Clifford Benson (piano)
11.00 Reginald Smith Brindle: BBC Welsh SO under Odaline de la Martinez perform the Symphonic Variations; Via Crucis, for strings; Creation Epic
11.57 News **12.00** Closedown

Radio 4

LW (long wave). (s) Stereo on VHF
5.55 Shipping Forecast **6.00** News Briefing: Weather **6.10** The Farming Week **6.50** Prayer
7.00 Today, incl **7.00, 8.00** News **7.25** Sport **7.30, 8.30** News **7.40, 8.47** Today's Papers **7.45** In Perspective **7.55, 8.58** Weather
9.00 News bulletin
9.05 Sport on 4 *(with Cliff* Morgan)
9.30 Breakaway: Bernard Falk with the latest travel and holiday news
10.00 News; Loose Ends: hosted by Ned Sherrin. The team includes Carol Thatcher, Emma Freud, Jonathan Ross, and *Victor Lewis Smith*
11.00 News; Talking Politics: An assessment of the outlook for the world economy and the need for greater international cooperation. With Peter Riddell, of the *Financial Times*
11.30 From Our Own Correspondent
12.00 Money Box. Listeners' questions sent in by post
12.25 Starring Leslie Willey: Comedy with Leslie Phillips and Eric Sykes 5: The Tour (s) **12.55** Weather
1.00 News
1.10 Any Questions? Sue MacGregor is in the chair with guests Esther Rantzen, Jeffrey Archer, *Baroness Phillips and* Arthur Marshall. From Pangbourne, Berkshire (r) **1.55** Shipping
2.00 News; Second Edition: Kevin Mulhearn with the best of Radio 4's magazine programmes.
3.00 News; Daisy Pulls It Off: Girls school play, by Denise Deegan, with Alexandra Mathie (as Daisy) and Helena Little (as Trixie) (s)
4.30 Science Now: Avalanche! Alun Lewis visits the Alps to investigate the science of snow and ice
5.00 Curtain Call: Anthony *Hopkins talks about his life* as an actor with Martyn Williams (r)
5.25 Al Read — A Tribute. A collection of his most *popular comedy* routines **5.50** Shipping **5.55** Weather
6.00 News; Incl Sports Round-Up
6.25 Citizens: Omnibus edition of Happy New Year?
7.10 Stop the Week with Robert Robinson. (s)
7.45 Saturday Night Theatre: The Bakie Charivari. The 1964 production of theatracle play by James Bridie, with a cast including Clive Morton, Marjorie Westbury and James McKechnie (s)
9.10 *Music in Mind:* Richard Baker presents a selection of words and music
9.50 Ten to Ten: A reading, a hymn and reflection led by *Richard Harris* **9.59** Weather
10.00 News
10.15 The Saturday Feature: The Frock and the Falsie. A *behind-the-scenes look* at the world of the pantomime dame, with Ronnie Coyles
10.45 Lord's Day. Margaret Howard meets some Lords and Ladies who have had unusual and surprising jobs. Tonight: Baron Tevlot and his wife, *once a* Wimbledon tennis player
11.00 The Big Fun Show: with Paul Merton, John Irwin and others
11.30 Whose Line Is It Anyway? Comedy with John Sessions and Stephen Fry and special guests Lenny Henry and Dawn French.
12.00 News; Weather **12.33** Shipping
VHF as above except: **1.55-2.00pm** Programme news **4.30-6.00** Options: *4.30 Out in the* Community **5.00** Espana Viva **5.30** L'Italie dal vivo

SUNDAY

CHOICE



From the left: David Fenwick, Paul Wyett and Paul McLain in First of the Summer Wine, BBC1, 7.15pm

● When a character leans over a bridge and wonders whether you can go to hell for fishing on a Sunday and gets the retort, "Do you think hell's going to be open on a Sunday?", we can only be in Roy Clarke country. Clarke is the master of the inconsequential conversation, brought to its ultimate in *Last of the Summer Wine.* He now gives us First of the Summer Wine (BBC1, 7.15pm) which not only imagines what Compo, Clegg and company were up to as kids but is also an opportunity to evoke a nostalgic 1930s world of trams, picture houses and 78rpm records. Though, as always, Clarke dispenses with anything that could even vaguely be called a plot, the idea works delightfully. The focus is on the young Norman Clegg, his taciturn decorator *father and a mother* who reads *Picturegoer* and wants the boy to be like Freddie Bartholomew. There are the seeds, too, of the *future life of the Battys.* If those unfamiliar with the parent show may find it too much of an in-joke, Clarke's humour can become addictive and there will be a chance to get further into the mood when a full series of *First of the Summer Wine* is screened in the autumn.

P.W.

BBC1

8.55 Play School **9.15** Umbrella. The first of a new religious series for children **9.30** This is the Day from Guernsey.

10.00 The Winning Years. Murray Walker in conversation with champion motorcyclists (r). **10.30** Talking Business (r).

10.55 Télé-France (r). **11.20** A vous la France! Part 10 (r). **11.45** España Viva. Beginners *Spanish (r).*

12.10 See Hear! For the hearing impaired **12.35** Farming. A report from Memphis, Missouri, *a farm town on the* verge of economic collapse (r). **12.58** Weather.

1.00 News.

1.05 The Pink Panther Show (r). **1.20** Children's BBC. A preview of 1988's programmes **1.30** EastEnders (r). (Ceefax)

3.00 Match of the Day Live. Everton v Nottingham Forest.

4.55 Cartoon **5.05** Fax. A new series of the question-answering programme.

5.30 Antiques Roadshow. Hugh Scully begins a new series in Worcester. (Ceefax).

6.15 In the Know. An eight-part series on successful learning. (Ceefax).

6.25 News and weather.

6.40 Songs of Praise from Iona. (Ceefax)

7.15 First of the Summer Wine. (Ceefax) (see Choice).

8.00 See for Yourself. The chairman of the BBC, Marmaduke Hussey, introduces a special report on how viewers' licence fee money is spent by the *Corporation. Among* those taking part are Griff Rhys Jones and Mel Smith reviewing the year's light entertainment with behind-the-scenes looks at *'Allo 'Allo* and *Wogan.* The radio section includes the making of Radio 4's *Any Questions.* A special edition of *Open Air* at 10.15 will give viewers a chance to comment on *what they have seen* and heard. (Ceefax)

10.00 News and weather.

10.15 Open Air Special. Ring 061-814 0424 if you wish to comment on *See for Yourself.*

11.15 Everyman: Jihad — Afghanistan's Holy War. A repeat of the award-winning film report from the front-line city of Kandahar.

12.05 Weather.

BBC2

9.00 Ceefax 9.30 Now on Two for children begins with Janosch's Story Time **9.55** Whirlybirds (b/w) (r). **10.20** Odysseus (r). **10.35** The *Charlie Brown and* Snoopy Show (r). **10.55** Now It's You. Junior *Points of View.*

11.00 Blue Peter Omnibus. *Highlights of 1987* **11.30** Aliens in the Family. Final episode (r). (Ceefax)

12.00 Windmill. Clips from programmes about the *British countryside.* **1.00** Miniature Worlds. The wildlife of an autumn woodland (r). **1.10** Unnatural *History. David* Attenborough gives the Royal Television Society Huw Wheldon Memorial Lecture (r).

2.00 Rugby Special includes highlights of the English Trial.

3.00 Film: Mogambo (1953) starring Clark Gable, Ava Gardner and Grace Kelly. Big game hunting and a triangular love affair set in the uplands of Kenya. Directed by John Ford.

4.55 Music in Camera. The Spanish mezzo-soprano Teresa Berganza with Gabriel Estarellas (guitar) in a recital at Hopetoun House.

5.40 Ski Sunday featuring the Four Hills Tournament *from Innsbruck.*

6.20 Weather to Ski? The first of a timely series of weekly weather reports on current skiing conditions.

6.25 Schubert. Peter Schreier, tenor, accompanied by Geoffrey Parsons, piano, sings Schubert's Goethe Lieder.

7.15 Waorani — The Last People. A documentary *about a nomadic tribe* living in the rainforests of Ecuador.

8.00 Film: Young Frankenstein (1974, b/w) starring Gene Wilder. Brain surgeon Frederick Frankenstein goes to Transylvania to collect a legacy. Once there he is persuaded to try and bring to life a suitable corpse. Directed by Mel Brooks.

9.45 We Interrupt This Year A lighthearted quiz of the year's events.

10.25 Film: Take the Money and Run (1969) starring Woody Allen and Janet Margolin. Comedy about a reluctant robber who discovers love and finds a purpose in crime. Directed by Woody Allen. (Ceefax). Ends at **11.15.**

ITV/LONDON

6.00 TV-am

9.25 Film: Digby — the Biggest Dog in the World (1973) starring Jim Dale. An Old English Sheepdog swallows a powder that was intended to be used as a cucumber enlarger. Directed by Joseph McGrath.

11.00 Meditation on Hope. The first of a series of three programmes exploring the theme of hope using music, *prayer, readings and* silence, from Cartmel Priory in Cumbria.

12.00 Athletics '87. Highlights of 1987.

1.00 *Police 5* **1.10** *Link* explores services for the disabled supplied by travel agents; and why NHS wheelchairs need redesigning. **1.30** The Smurfs.

2.00 Encounter. This first of a new series examines a possible poltergeist encounter.

2.30 Snooker. The Mercantile Credit Classic.

5.00 Once in a Lifetime. . . . The story of 75-year-old Margaret Lacey who has been trying to be a film star for half a century.

6.00 Bullseye.

6.30 News.

6.40 Highway. Sir Harry Secombe in Donaghadee.

7.15 Thank Heaven for *Little Girls.* Michael Aspel joins Liverpool's Walton sisters, now aged four, the world's only all-girl sextuplets.

8.00 Murder, She Wrote. Jessica investigates the murder of her nephew's boss.

8.50 News.

9.00 The Contract. Episode one of a new three-part Gerald Seymour thriller, to be shown on *consecutive evenings,* about a covert British intelligence operation in East Germany. Starring Bernard Hepton. (Oracle)

10.00 Labour of Love. The story of a grandmother who gave birth to her daughter's triplets.

10.30 Snooker. The Mercantile Credit Classic.

12.30 Benson. Comedy.

1.00 Night Network Includes Elton John.

2.05 Film: Night of the Iguana (1964, b/w) starring Richard Burton. Tennesse *Williams's story of a* defrocked priest, now a tourist guide in Mexico. Directed by John Huston.

4.10 T J Hooker.

5.05 Ben Casey. Vintage medical drama series. Ends at **6.00.**

CHANNEL 4

9.25 Movie Mania! (colour and b/w). Part 17 of the history of the Indian cinema industry.

10.00 The World This Year. An examination, filmed mostly in Japan, of the dangers and hopes for the world economy in the coming year.

11.30 Pob's Programme for children **12.00** The Waltons.

1.00 Island Records: The Allstar Story. A programme of *highlights from last year's* C4 celebration of 25 years of Island Records, presented by Grace Jones.

2.00 *Great Dorset Steam.* Anthony Burton presents this programme about the Great Working of Steam Engines which *takes place each year in* various sites around Stourpaine, near Blandford Forum (r).

2.45 Skywhales. An animated film (r).

3.00 The Miracle. A young Church of England vicar doubts his own faith when a young boy miraculously regains his sight; the atheist Harley Street specialist who has been treating the boy re-examines his own beliefs. Starring Keith Michell, Richard Johnson and Anthony Quayle.

4.00 *Baka — People of the* Rainforest. A documentary about the Baka Pygmies who live in the rainforests of Cameroon (r) (Oracle)

6.00 Gymnastics 87. The gymnastic achievements of the year.

7.15 News summary and weather followed by Film: Tunes of Glory (1960) starring John Mills and Alec Guinness. *Superb drama* about an officer of a Scottish regiment, about to retire, and his conflicts with his martinet successor. *Directed by* Ronald Neame.

9.15 An Audience with Peter Ustinov. The multi-talented entertainer regales an invited audience with reminiscences and opinions.

10.15 Three Cheers for Darkened Rooms. A documentary filmed over six days of the Bristol Animation *Festival illustrating the* diversity of the genre.

11.15 Les — A Dream in the Life. A short film about a day in the life of an out-of-work actor.

11.30 American Football. The Super Bowl play-offs. Ends at **1.00.**

Radio 1

MW (medium wave). Stereo on VHF *(see below)*
News on the half-hour until **10.30am** then **12.30pm, 3.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30, 12.00** midnight
6.00am Nicky Campbell **8.00** *Peter Powell* **10.00** Dave Lee Travis **1.00pm** Sunday Oldies with Mike Read **3.00** Pop of the Form **3.30** Backchat **4.00** Chartbusters (Bruno Brookes) **5.00** Top 40 **7.00** Ann Nightingale Request Show **9.00** Andy Peebles Soul Train **11.00-12.00** The Ranking Miss P.
VHF Stereo Radios 1 and 2:- **4.00am** As Radio 2 **5.00pm** As Radio 1 **12.00-4.00am** As Radio 2.

Radio 2

MW (medium wave). Stereo on VHF (see Radio 1)
News on the hour (except **8.00pm**). Sports Desks **7.02am, 8.05, 9.05, 12.02pm, 6.02, 10.02**
4.00am Dave Bussey **6.00** Graham Knight **7.30** Roger Royle **9.05** Melodies For You **11.00** Desmond Carrington **2.00pm** Benny Green **3.00** Alan Dell **4.00** Serenade (Langham Orchestra) **4.30** Cliff Adams Singers **5.00** Charlie Chester **7.00** Living with Betty **7.30** Operetta Nights **8.30** Sunday Half-Hour **9.00** Your Hundred Best Tunes **10.05** Songs from the Shows **10.45** Peter Wallisch at the piano **11.00** Sounds of Jazz (Tony Russell) **1.00** Alan Dedicoat **3.00-4.00** A Little Night Music.

WORLD SERVICE

All programme times given in GMT
6.00am Newsdesk **6.30** Londres Matin **7.00** News **7.09** 24 Hours **7.30** From Our Own Correspondent **7.45** Book Choice **7.50** Wavelength **8.00** News **8.09** Reflections **8.15** The Pleasure's Yours **9.00** News **9.09** The Sunday Papers **9.15** Science in Action **9.45** Australia Bound **10.00** News **10.01** Story **10.15** Classical Record Review **10.30** Sunday Service **11.00** News **11.09** News About Britain **11.15** From our own Correspondent **11.30** Londres Midi From **12.00** Play of the Week: Uncle Vanya **1.00** News **1.09** 24 Hours **1.30** Sports Roundup **1.45** Sandi Jones *Request Show including at 2.00 News* **2.30** Back to Square One **3.00** Radio Newsreel **3.15** Concert Hall **4.00** News **4.09** Commentary **4.15** Fundamentalist America **4.45** Letter From America **5.00** News **5.09** Reflections **5.15** English by Radio **5.45** Londres Soir **6.30** Heute Aktuell **8.00** News **8.09** Twenty-Four Hours **8.30** Sunday Half Hour **9.00** News **9.01** Short Story **9.15** The Pleasure's Yours **10.00** World News **10.09** I've Been Together Now For 70 Years **10.25** Book Choice **10.30** Financial Review **10.40** Reflections **10.45** Sports Roundup **11.00** News **11.09** Commentary **11.15** Letter from America **11.30** The Legacy of the Sixties **12.00** News **12.09** News About Britain **12.15** *Radio Newsreel* **12.30** Religious Service **1.00** News **1.01** Living at Full Flame **1.45** Organists of Paris **2.00** World News **2.09** Commentary **2.15** Peebles' Choice **2.30** Discovery **3.00** World News **3.09** News About Britain **3.15** Good Books **3.30** Anything Goes **4.00** Newsdesk **4.30** Six Four Eight **4.35** Financial News **4.45** Morgenmagazin **5.45** Recording of the Week.

Radio 3

6.55 Weather **7.00** News
7.05 *English Pastorals:* Includes works by Finzi (A Severn Rhapsody, Op 3: LPO), Howells (In Gloucestershire: *Divertimenti),* Gurney, George Lloyd (The Lilly *Leaf and the Grasshopper:* Kathryn Stott, piano), Moeran, and Vaughan Williams (second movement of A Pastoral Symphony: New Philharmonia), Elgar (Introduction and Allegro for strings: LPO under Sir Adrian Boult)
8.00 World Service News
8.10 Grumiaux Trio: Schubert's String Trio in B flat, D 581; and Beethoven's Serenade in D, Op 8. **9.00** News bulletin
9.05 Your Concert Choice: Rodrigo (Concierto como un divertimento: Julian *Lloyd Webber,* cello: and LPO), Rameau (La Musique, Les Fêtes d'Hébé: ECO), Mendelssohn (Sonata in B flat, Op 45: the *Sellhorns, cello and* piano), Xaver Scharwenka (Piano Concerto No 1: Earl Wild, with Boston SO)
10.30 Music Weekly: with Michael Oliver. Includes Christopher Fifield's assessment of the achievements of Max Bruch; and a conversation with composer Anthonyn Payne
11.15 BBC Philharmonic under Klee, with John Lill (piano). Beethoven (Overture and movements, Prometheus); Bartok (Concerto No 3); Haydn (Symphony No 95)
12.25 Words: talk by the industrial historian John Sparry
12.30 Bath Festival 1987: Paul Crossley (piano). Works by Beethoven (Sonata in D Op 28), Schumann (Davidsbündlertänze, Op 6), Liszt (Légendes), and Scriabin (including Studies, Op 2 No 1, and Op 8, No 2. Also Caresse dansée Op 57 No 2; and Vers la flamme, Op 72)
2.25 *Don Carlos:* Verdi's four-act opera. Sung in Italian. Thomas Fulton conducts Turin Philharmonic, with Suisse Romande Radio *Choir and Pro Arte Choir.* Principals include Ruth Falcon, Giacomo Aragall (title role), Giorgio Zancanaro, José Van Dam, *Rafael Lavon,* Liliana Nejceva, and Luigi Roni
5.30 Space Invaders: the factors that control the behaviour of invading species of animals. An investigation by Colin Tudge
6.15 A Most Delightful Art: then secular music of Renaissance Italy. Works by Alessandro Striggio and Andrea Gabrieli, performed by Taverner Consort and Players under Andrew Parrott
6.45 Medtner: Marlene Fleet (piano) plays Three Fairy Tales in B flat minor, Op 20 No 1; in A, Op 51 No 3; and in E minor, Op 34 No 2; also Sonata in F minor, Op 5
7.30 Bavarian Radio SO under Colin Davis, with Johannes Ritzkowsky (horn). Strauss (Horn Concerto No 1), Mahler (Symphony No 1), Beethoven (Coriolan overture)
9.00 Scandinavian Quartets: *Gotland Quartet play* Stenhammar's Quartet No 6; and Beethoven's Quartet in E minor, Op 59 No 2
10.00 *Don Juan:* Ronald Pickup reads part two of an arrangement of Byron's work tonight, Exile
10.30 Choral Evensong: In *Hereford Cathedral. The* organ voluntary is Parry's Chorale Prelude on Eventide. The organist is Roy Massey
11.30 Early Promise: Polish CO play Mendelssohn's String Symphony No 2, and Camerata Bern play Rossini's Sonata No 5
11.57 News **12.00** Closedown

Radio 4

LW (long wave). (s) Stereo on VHF
5.55 Shipping **6.00** News **6.10** Prelude **6.30** News; Morning has Broken
7.00 News **7.10** Sunday Papers **7.15** On Your Farm **7.40** Sunday
8.00 News **8.10** Sunday Papers **8.50** The Week's Good *Cause (an appeal by Lady* Soames) **9.00** News
9.10 Sunday Papers
9.15 Letter From America
9.30 Morning Service (from Jordanhill Parish Church, Glasgow)
10.15 The Archers: all the latest news from Ambridge, in the omnibus edition
11.15 Pick of the Week: Margaret Howard with TV and radio highlights of the past week
12.00 Face the Facts: with John Waite
12.25 Starring Leslie Willey: Final part of the comedy with Leslie Phillips and Eric Sykes **12.55** Weather *prospects for the day*
1.00 The World This Weekend
2.00 Gardeners' Question Time: The team visit Nunthorpe Gardening Club, Cleveland
2.30 *Hurningtower (new series):* John Buchan's classic tale dramatized in three parts by Trevor Royle. Cast is headed by Roy Hanlon, David McKail and Stuart McQuarrie (1)
3.30 The Warm-Up Men: Behind-the-scenes with the comedians who are specially employed to get studio audiences in the right mood, mainly for comedy shows, *and chat shows like Wogan.* With Glyn Worsnip (r)
4.00 News; The Chamberlain Trilogy: A Tragedy, told by Enoch Powell
4.47 Even Further up the Tyne in a Flummox: Leonard Barras reads two of his stories: Much Persuasion, and Rhubarb: A Conservative View
5.00 News; Down Your Way. Aled Jones, the former boy singer!, visits the Barbican Centre, London **6.00** News
6.15 The Quiet Pipers: Richard Kelly charts the history of the Northumbrian small pipes, which are now *making a come-back*
6.30 International Assignment
7.00 News; The Streets of London: An inquiry into the magnetism that the capital exerts on people from the rest of the country.
7.30 Fear on 4 (new series): First of 12 horror and suspense plays (1) The Snowman Killing by J C W Brook. Introduced by Edward de Souza. Cast is headed by Imaida Staunton, Alistair Whitehead and Allan Constantouris
8.00 Never the Same Again: Jenni Mills meets Janet and her husband Paul, *in a coma for* three months after a car accident
9.00 News; Caribbean drift: stories form the Black experience in Britain (1) Home, by Jacqueline Roy
9.15 The Natural History Programme: Cotswold valley at night
10.00 News bulletin
10.15 The Belfast Exchange: Remembrance Sunday impressions by young people, recorded before the Enniskillen bomb blast
11.10 Profile: portrait of Jesuit Fr Michael A E Campbell-Johnston
11.30 Seeds of Faith: Beyond the Sacred Page. With Myrtle Langley
11.45 Before the Ending of the Day: the office of Compline **12.00** News
VHF as above except: **1.55-2.00pm** Programme News **4.00-6.00** Options

**FREQUENCIES: Radio 1:1053kHz/285m;1089kHz/275m; Radio 2:

هكذا عن الاصل

Austrian leader decries Nazism

By Andrew McEwen
Diplomatic Correspondent

President Waldheim of Austria said yesterday that policies followed by Nazi Germany after its annexation of Austria in 1938 "led us over a precipice". In his new year broadcast he implicitly accepted that anti-Semitism found a breeding ground in Austria and that large numbers of innocent people were killed.

"Let us preserve ourselves from xenophobia and intolerance", he said.

His decision to deal directly with the most sensitive chapter of Austria's immediate past surprised many diplomats. President Waldheim's own actions during that period remain under scrutiny amid accusations that he attempted to hide his war record.

His broadcast foreshadowed the fiftieth anniversary, on March 11, of Hitler's *Anschluss* of Austria. "One must repeatedly and openly say that the criminal policies of the Nazi regime – policies many people saw through only when it was too late – led us over a precipice", he stated.

Without mentioning Jews or anti-Semitism specifically, he said tens of thousands of people whose families had contributed to Austrian politics, culture and economy for generations were tragic victims of racial hatred in the seven years following 1938. "Let us preserve ourself from xenophobia and intolerance, let us give our minorities the certainty they have full rights as fellow citizens and a safe home in Austria", he stated.

Dr Waldheim, a former Secretary-General of the United Nations, did not mention his 1942-1945 military service as a German Army lieutenant under a general who was later executed for war crimes.

Allegations that he interrogated prisoners-of-war and sent some to their deaths are under review. He has denied involvement in any war crimes.

The Foreign Office said in November that the British Government examined allegations on three occasions but considered them unproven. Earlier this year it looked into a report dealing with events in 1944. This analysed UN documents suggesting that on 19 occasions *Oberleutnant* Waldheim of Army Group E conducted interrogations and then handed prisoners over to other units to be executed.

Seven British commandos interrogated in April, 1944, and four British soldiers in the following month, were said to have been killed after he had seen them.

Brother Harold's labour of love on a hilltop



By Peter Davenport

High up in the rolling Cheviot Hills of Northumberland, the grazing sheep and cattle have long been used to the noise of low-flying fighter aircraft roaring overhead. Lately, however, it has been to the steady buzz of a ground-hugging, slower-moving piece of machinery that they have had to become accustomed.

It is the sound of Brother Harold, a modern-day hermit, zipping across his domain on a four-wheel, all-terrain motorcycle.

The unlikely sight of the 56-year-old friar, bouncing along a muddy track on his machine, his habit waving in the wind and large black Wellington boots peeping below its hem, is enough to cause any stranger to disbelieve the evidence of his own eyes.

Nevertheless it has become familiar to villagers around the town of Alnwick where Brother Harold lives. For 17 years, he has dedicated his life to building a hermitage as the base for a small contemplative order.

It was in 1970 that Brother Harold, a member of the Society of St Francis and living at a friary at Alnmouth in Northumberland, first saw the windy hilltop at Shepherds Law, near the village of Edlingham and decided that its ruined, eighteenth-century folly would make the ideal place for a hermitage.

He spent the first seven winters in a caravan while he built himself a house, lit by oil lamp, where he could continue his daily regime of prayer.

An appeal fund set up three years ago by supporters, led by the Rev John Lowen, a Tyneside vicar, has raised about £60,000, enabling local craftsmen to be hired to begin the building of the hermitage itself, complete with cloister, chapel, oratory and residential cells.

A further £25,000 is needed to complete the work so that three permanent brothers and up to five guests can stay there. If long-term plans for an even larger hermitage are realized, the project will cost £200,000.

Brother Harold, a teacher before becoming a Franciscan friar 30 years ago, spends eight months of the year in his hilltop home, surrounded by books and warmed by a huge log-burning stove. Until well-wishers provided the motorcycle recently his only transport was an old bicycle. He uses the rest of his time to visit religious orders overseas on pilgrimages.

He sees himself as renewing a monastic tradition in Northumberland that dates back 13 centuries, and believes he may be dead before the hermitage is finished.

He said: "So many people visit the remains of great monasteries and wonder why they are now ruined and deserted. Was there something of value in them that today's society needs? I believe there was."

Photograph: Chris Harris

Tories seek return of the cane

Continued from page 1

subjected to "offensive verbal abuse".

The results of the survey have already been informally discussed by Mr Baker, his ministerial colleagues, senior inspectors and department officials. The PAT has sent details to the Prime Minister.

The Secretary of State voiced his concern over worsening standards of behaviour and acknowledged that teachers needed greater support in a speech in December, in which he called on parents to face up to their responsibilities in the way they brought up children at home. He is expected to return to this theme shortly.

Ideas likely to be considered by ministers as part of a possible crackdown include more withdrawal units for the worst offenders, better training of teachers in handling disruptive pupils and a greater emphasis on selecting head teachers with strong leadership qualities.

Those measures have all been advocated by Mr Peter Dawson, general secretary of the PAT, who has called for a commission of inquiry into falling standards of school discipline.

It is understood that at this stage, ministers are chiefly concerned with opening up a public debate.

They suspect the problem is becoming worse, but believe that many teachers are afraid to speak out for fear of blackening their reputations and those of their schools.

They also point out that the new Bill gives far greater powers to heads and governors and they expect schools to exploit this freedom from local authority control to take a tougher line against persistent offenders.

Mr Pawsey hopes to introduce his amendment within a few weeks.

Superpowers look to next arms deal

Continued from page 1

regions . . . too many mothers, including Soviet mothers, have wept over the graves of their fallen sons. True peace means not only preventing a big war, but ending smaller ones as well. This is why we support efforts to find just, negotiated solutions acceptable to the people who are suffering in regional wars."

Mr Reagan reaffirmed US concern on the question of human rights, stating: "Silence is a form of falsehood. We will always speak out on behalf of human dignity."

And referring to the talks in Washington three weeks ago, and the signing of the INF Treaty, he said there had been a "history-making" step towards reducing the nuclear arsenals of both superpowers.

"But it was just a beginning. Now in Geneva, Soviet and American representatives are discussing a 50 per cent reduction in strategic nuclear weapons. Perhaps we can have a treaty ready to sign by our meeting in the spring. The world prays that we will. We on the American side are determined to try."

Mr Gorbachov said in his message to Americans, broadcast nationally by US television networks, that the Soviet Union "would like, without delay, to address the problem of cutting back drastically conventional forces and arms in Europe". He referred to the "enormous stock of goodwill" he had discovered in America.

The Soviet leader described the signing of the INF Treaty as a good omen, which marked the first step along the path of reducing nuclear arms.

The accord had brought the Soviet and American peoples closer.

"There will be profound changes in our country along the lines of continued *perestroika* (restructuring), democratization and radical economic reform," he said. "In the final analysis, all this will let us move on to a broad avenue of accelerated development."

Americans had quite a few problems, too, Mr Gorbachov remarked. In grappling with them, both countries must remember that "human life is equally priceless, whether in the Soviet Union, the US, or in any other country".

Mr Gorbachov added: "If they could only do that, what is but a dream today would come true – a lasting peace, an end to the arms race, wide-ranging trade, co-operation in combating hunger, disease and environmental problems, and progress in ensuring human rights and resolving other humanitarian issues."

Pope sides with Ukrainians

By Alexander Johnson

The Pope, in his new year peace message yesterday, made a further attempt to involve himself in the politics of the 1,000th anniversary of Russian Christianity.

About 20,000 worshippers in St Peter's Basilica, Rome, heard him pray that the Virgin Mary "meditate in her heart all the problems of those people" in Russia and eastern Europe who suffered for the sake of their religion.

He asked the congregation to remember the first Russian saint, Princess Olga, whose baptism on the banks of the Dnieper near the Ukrainian city of Kiev opened the way for the Christianization of Tsarist Russia, which began in AD 988.

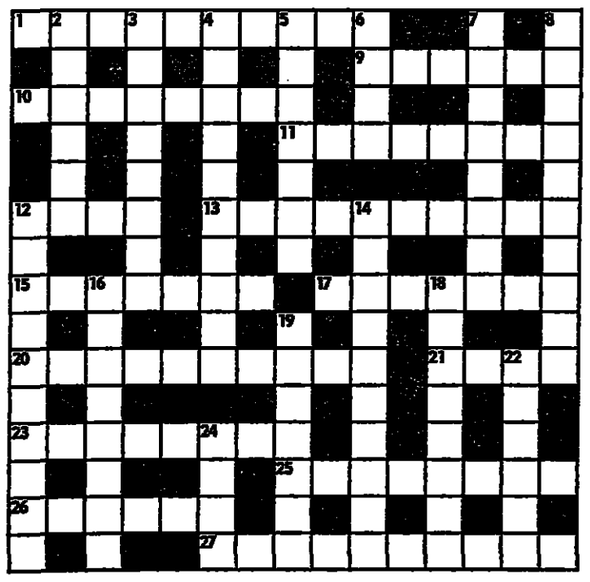
This year's anniversary poses a considerable problem for the Soviet authorities, because of rival claims from the Russian Orthodox Church and the suppressed Ukrainian Catholic Church to be the true heirs of early Russian Christianity.

While the Russian Orthodox Church has always been loyal to the state, the authorities are nervous of the resurgence of the underground Ukrainian Catholic Church, which owes twin allegiance to Ukrainian nationalism and the Pope.

Moscow has always described the millennium as a celebration of Russian culture and history, but the Pope has antagonized the Soviet authorities by emphasizing the claims of the Ukrainians, as he did in his address yesterday.

His remarks about repression of the Church in Russia are clearly aimed at putting more pressure on Moscow to legalize the four-million-strong Ukrainian Catholic Church.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,555



ACROSS

1 Foreign money I check one's found in order (10).
9 Princess with Common Market personal assistant? (6).
10 Momentous as the Olympics, for example (8).
11 What peace-makers try to do is put at risk (8).
12 Notable high-jumper beat it, we hear (4).
13 Main admiral almost wrecked was Hood's friend (4,6).
15 Somehow altered, as deck may be (7).
17 Celebrity's opening switched, as a rule, in Russia (7).
20 Legal document that could be a trap (10).
21 Stylish novel's beginning caught on (4).
23 Settle, or prepare to fight (6,2).
25 Pat his arm in error (8).
26 Philosopher king meant to safeguard property (6).
27 Head off Sheridan's lady, nabbing the same rascal (4-2-4).

DOWN

2 Make merry, taking in a show (6).
3 Lack of employment for lower-class pundit (3-5).
4 Instruct colleague without ceremony (10).
5 Firm hired it for one spell for 7 (4-3).
6 Demand, on the one hand, all the conclusions (4).
7 Flier showing ability in the air line (8).
8 Sort of Tory PM I can name, such as Macmillan (10).
12 Project over the French crew's quarters (10).
14 Plan complex scheme in Michaelmas term? Indeed (10).
16 Brand wild cat spotted below lair (8).
18 Whisk car off in transporter (8).
19 Fire confined to part of church (7).
22 Is king toppled to form republic? (6).
24 Make sound of large vessel (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 17,549



Solution to Puzzle No 17,554



WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

MISTIGRIS
a. A game of poker
b. The delta of the Tigris
c. A virgin tigress

AMA
a. An Indian wet-nurse
b. Eucharist cup
c. Amateur Mah Jong Assoc.

LECHWE
a. An antelope
b. A pervert
c. A Dutch tallboy

APPANAGE
a. Corn land
b. An estate
c. A bakery

Solutions page 30, column 8

A prize of The Times Concise Atlas of the World *will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.*

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: Mr I Barton, Sharman Dr, Belfast; Miss J Brown, Alderwood Dr, Abridge, Romford, Essex; P Langham, Woodland Ravine, Scarborough, N Yorks; Mrs M D Phillips, Carlton Ave West, Wembley, Middlesex; S E L Robinson, Belvedere Rd, Blackburn, Lancs.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Jumbo Crossword, page 19

WEATHER

Southern Britain will bear the brunt of strong winds, reaching gale and even storm force. Rain over southern England, heavy at times, will clear eastwards by late morning. Most areas will have sunny intervals and showers, with temperatures above normal. Some showers will be heavy, possibly with hail in western districts. Over Scotland a spell of persistent rain is likely later. Outlook: Unsettled and colder.

ABROAD

NOON TODAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; fg, fog; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow; t, thunder.

		C	F			C	F
Ajaccio	s	15	59	Majorca	f	14	57
Alex'dria	c	17	63	Malta	r	13	55
Algiers	f	16	61	Malt'rne	c	20	68
Athens	c	12	54	Mexico C*	f	18	64
Bahrain	s	16	61	Miami*	f	23	73
Barbados*	r	28	82	Montreal*	c	-7	19
Bangalore	s	9	48	Moscow	s	-14	7
Berlin	f	8	46	Nairobi	f	29	84
Bermuda*	c	15	59	N Delhi	s	18	64
Biarritz	c	11	52	N York*	f	2	36
Brussels	c	8	46	Nice	f	14	57
Budapest	fg	2	36	Paris	c	7	45
B Aires*	c	28	82	Peking	s	3	37
Cape Tn	s	25	77	Perth	s	27	81
C'blanca	c	18	61	Prague	r	7	45
Chicago*	c	-5	23	Rhodes	c	16	61
Ch'church	s	16	61	Rio de J	f	29	84
C'phagn	c	7	45	Rome	s	14	57
Corfu	c	13	55	S F'isco*	s	7	45
Dublin	r	12	54	Santiago*	s	31	88
Dubrovnik	s	15	59	S Paulo*	c	24	75
Faro	s	16	61	Seoul	sn	-1	30
Frankfurt	c	8	46	Sing'por	f	32	90
Funchal	f	17	63	Strasbrg	c	9	48
Geneva	c	8	46	Sydney	f	27	81
Gibraltar	f	16	61	Tangier	f	13	55
Hong K	f	22	72	Tel aviv	f	17	63
Innsbruck	s	7	45	Tenerife	f	19	66
Istanbul	s	14	57	Toronto*	d	4	39
Jo'burg*	s	28	82	Tunis	f	17	63
Karachi	s	24	75	Valencia	s	15	59
L Palmas	c	18	64	Vanc'ver*	s	0	32
La Tquet	r	8	46	Venice	c	7	45
Lisbon	f	14	57	Vienna	c	3	37
Locarno	c	6	43	Warsaw	c	4	39
L Angels*	s	12	54	Wash'ton*	s	7	45
Luxembg	c	6	43	Wel'ton	s	14	57
Madrid	s	9	48	Zurich	r	6	43

* denotes Thursday's figures are latest available

AROUND BRITAIN

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Scarboro	-	-	10	50	dull
Crosser	-	.20	11	52	rain
Lowestoft	0.1	.12	9	48	rain
Southend	-	.08	10	50	rain
Margate	-	-	11	52	rain
Folkestone	-	.08	9	48	rain
Eastbourne	-	.34	11	52	rain
Brighton	-	.19	10	50	rain
Worthing	-	.19	11	52	rain
Bognor R	-	.24	11	52	rain
Southsea	-	.20	11	52	rain
Shanklin	-	.28	11	52	gales
Bournemth	-	.22	12	54	rain
Poole	-	.21	12	54	drizzle
Swanage	-	.23	12	54	shower
Weymouth	-	.09	12	54	rain
Exmouth	-	.08	13	55	dull
Teignmouth	-	.04	13	55	drizzle
Torquay	-	.06	13	55	rain
Falmouth	-	.28	13	55	drizzle
Penzance	-	.21	13	55	rain
Scilly Isles	-	.11	12	54	drizzle
Newquay	-	.40	12	54	rain
Milfordhve	-	.45	12	54	rain
Minehead	-	.07	12	54	rain
Mumbles	-	.49	10	50	rain
Douglas	-	.20	11	52	rain
Carlisle	-	.15	11	52	rain
Nottingham	-	.06	11	52	rain
Anglesey	-	.15	11	52	rain
Aberdeen	1.0	.01	8	46	rain
Aviemore	0.5	.43	8	46	shower
Eskdalemuir	-	.32	10	50	rain
Kinloss	0.8	.06	10	50	rain
Lerwick	3.5	.28	8	46	sunny
Prestwick	-	.21	12	54	rain
Stornoway	0.3	.74	10	50	rain
Tiree	-	.38	11	52	rain
Wick	1.5	.41	8	46	rain
Belfast	-	.03	11	52	drizzle

* Denotes figures not available

HIGH TIDES

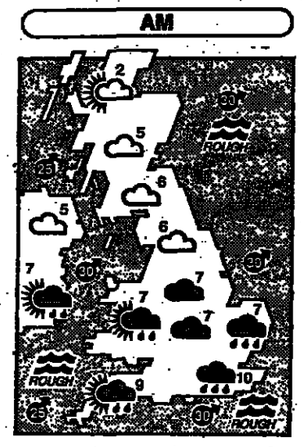
TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TOMORROW	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	12.22	6.5	12.45	6.4	London Bridge	1.10	6.5	1.31	6.5
Aberdeen	----	----	12.17	3.9	Aberdeen	12.39	3.8	12.55	4.0
Avonmouth	5.47	11.8	6.15	11.8	Avonmouth	6.35	12.1	7.00	12.1
Belfast	9.48	3.3	10.12	3.2	Belfast	10.27	3.4	10.51	3.2
Cardiff	5.32	10.9	6.00	11.0	Cardiff	6.20	11.2	6.45	11.2
Devonport	4.16	5.1	4.43	5.0	Devonport	5.05	5.2	5.29	5.0
Dover	9.45	6.0	10.16	5.1	Dover	10.31	6.1	10.58	6.3
Falmouth	3.48	4.9	4.13	4.8	Falmouth	4.39	5.0	4.59	4.8
Glasgow	11.18	4.8	----	----	Glasgow	12.03	4.5	12.02	4.7
Harwich	10.35	3.6	11.02	3.6	Harwich	11.28	3.7	11.44	3.7
Holyhead	9.11	5.1	9.32	5.0	Holyhead	9.52	5.2	10.13	5.0
Hull	4.55	6.6	5.25	6.7	Hull	5.48	6.8	6.07	6.8
Ilfracombe	4.35	8.1	5.01	8.1	Ilfracombe	5.20	8.3	5.44	8.3
Leith	1.05	5.1	1.34	5.1	Leith	1.55	5.1	2.19	5.1
Liverpool	10.09	8.4	10.28	8.4	Liverpool	10.44	8.6	11.05	8.5
Lowestoft	8.13	2.3	8.36	2.3	Lowestoft	9.05	2.2	9.12	2.4
Margate	10.47	4.3	11.13	4.3	Margate	11.34	4.4	11.50	4.4
Milford Haven	4.58	6.1	5.23	6.2	Milford Haven	5.44	6.4	6.07	6.3
Newquay	3.51	6.2	4.15	6.3	Newquay	4.38	6.4	4.58	6.3
Oban	4.45	3.4	5.07	3.5	Oban	5.19	3.6	5.44	3.6
Penzance	3.20	5.2	3.43	5.1	Penzance	4.04	5.3	4.28	5.1
Portland	5.22	1.9	6.05	1.7	Portland	6.16	2.0	6.54	1.8
Portsmouth	10.04	4.3	10.41	4.3	Portsmouth	10.48	4.4	11.23	4.3
Shoreham	9.49	5.6	10.22	5.6	Shoreham	10.34	5.7	11.05	5.8
Southampton	9.43	4.2	10.14	4.2	Southampton	10.22	4.2	10.54	4.2
Swansea	5.01	8.5	5.26	8.5	Swansea	5.44	8.7	6.10	8.6
Tees	2.18	4.9	2.42	5.0	Tees	3.02	3.9	11.40	5.1
W'ton-on-Nze	10.31	3.8	10.59	3.8	W'ton-on-Nze	11.19	3.9	11.40	3.9

Tide measured in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.
Times are GMT

TODAY — Sun rises: 8.06 am; Sun sets: 4.03 pm; Moon sets: 7.25 am; Moon rises: 2.01 pm; Full Moon January 4

TOMORROW — Sun rises: 8.06 am; Sun sets: 4.04 pm; Moon sets: 8.20 am; Moon rises: 2.57 pm; Full Moon tomorrow

AM



PM



LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 12C (54F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 7C (45F). Humidity: 6 pm, 92 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.05 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, nil. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 998.4 millibars, falling. 1,000 millibars=29.53in.

LIGHTING-UP TIME

TODAY
London 4.33 pm to 7.36 am
Bristol 4.43 pm to 7.46 am
Edinburgh 4.20 pm to 8.13 am
Manchester 4.31 pm to 7.55 am
Penzance 5.01 pm to 7.51 am

TOMORROW
London 4.34 pm to 7.36 am
Bristol 4.44 pm to 7.45 am
Edinburgh 4.21 pm to 8.13 am
Manchester 4.32 pm to 7.55 am
Penzance 5.02 pm to 7.51 am

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 12C (54F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 6C (43F). Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.17 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, nil.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Thursday: Highest day temp: Kinloss, Grampian 10C (54F); lowest day max: Eskdalemuir, Dumfries and Galloway 7C (45F); highest rainfall: Three, Strathclyde 0.98in; highest sunshine: Penzance, Cornwall 5.9 hr.

YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

		C	F			C	F
Belfast	r	9	48	Guernsey	r	10	50
B'mingham	c	9	48	Inverness	c	7	45
Blackpool	r	9	48	Jersey	r	10	50
Bristol	r	11	52	London	r	9	48
Cardiff	r	11	52	M'chester	r	8	46
Edinburgh	c	8	46	Newcastle	r	8	46
Glasgow	c	9	48	R'nldsway	c	10	50

NOON TODAY



Information supplied by London Weather Centre

THE POUND

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells		Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.685	2.545	Italy Lire	2265	2155
Austria Sch	21.65	20.55	Japan Yen	238	226
Belgium Fr	64.55	61.35	Netherlands Gld	3.455	3.285
Canada $	2.53	2.41	Norway Kr	12.17	11.52
Denmark Kr	11.86	11.28	Portugal Esc	252	239
Finland Mkk	7.72	7.32	South Africa Rd	4.60	3.90
France Fr	10.39	9.88	Spain Pta	209	198
Germany Dm	3.08	2.92	Sweden Kr	11.29	10.74
Greece Dr	275	255	Switzerland Fr	2.48	2.36
Hong Kong $	14.95	14.25	USA $	1.95	1.86
Ireland Pt	1.16	1.10	Yugoslavia Dnr	3000	2300

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

Retail Price Index: 102.4 (November). London: The *FT* Index closed down 34.7 at 1373.3

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هكذا في الأصل

PART 2

THE TIMES

SATURDAY JANUARY 2 1988

BUSINESS AND FINANCE 23-27
SPORT 28-32

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

STOCK MARKET

The figures below relate to New Year's Eve trading.

FT 30 Share
1373.3 (–34.7)

FT-SE 100
1712.7 (–47.1)

Bargains
15800 (16546)

USM (Datastream)
136.69 (–0.68)

THE POUND

US dollar
1.8850 (+0.0250)

W German mark
2.9613 (–0.0035)

Trade-weighted
75.8 (+0.2)

'Fuel cost savings held back'

By Robert Matthews
Technology Correspondent

Big improvements in energy efficiency are being held back because of the out-of-date practices of the utilities, say energy managers of local authorities.

Computerized energy accounting systems that can cut fuel bills by as much as 25 per cent — by highlighting wastage and enabling energy targets to be set — have recently become available. The data needed for the programs has to be extracted from the fuel bills provided by the utilities.

But energy managers are frustrated by the reluctance of the utilities to provide bills in anything other than the traditional paper format, which has to be laboriously entered into the computers by hand.

Even when the utilities do supply computer tapes, they are only usable on mainframes and customers are frequently obliged to pay their bills by standing order in return for the information.

A computer software company, Stark Associates, has recently developed a standard program which could be used by the utilities to overcome the difficulties caused by the use of paper-based data.

The utilities, however, have yet to show interest in the development of the standard.

SUMMARY

The figures below relate to New Year's Eve trading.

STOCK MARKETS

New York
Dow Jones ..... 1938.83 (–11.27)
Tokyo
Nikkei Average ..... Closed
Hong Kong:
Hang Seng ..... 2302.75 (+10.77)
Amsterdam: Gen ..... Closed
Sydney: AO ..... 1320.0 (+20.8)
Frankfurt:
Commerzbank ..... Closed
Brussels:
General ..... Closed
Paris: CAC ..... 280.7 (+0.3)
Zurich: SKA Gen ..... Closed
London:
FT—A All-Share ..... 870.22 (–20.7)
FT—"500" ..... 957.66 (–23.45)
FT. Gold Mines ..... 302.1 (–3.2)
FT. Fixed Interest ..... 95.07 (–0.01)
FT. Govt Secs ..... 88.49 (–0.2)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:
Chemring ..... 550p (+15p)
Caradon ..... 269p (+21p)
Henderson ..... 337½p (+20p)
J Jarvis ..... 675p (+25p)

FALLS:
Wellcome ..... 368p (–22p)
Unilever ..... 480p (–24p)
Parrish ..... 300p (–25p)
British Aerospace ... 327½p (–20p)
GRE ..... 828p (–20p)
Willis Faber ..... 209½p (–23p)
Jaguar ..... 312½p (–18p)
Fisons ..... 245½p (–19p)
Lloyds ..... 243½p (–19p)
BOC ..... 373½p (–15p)
Reuters ..... 490½p (–15p)
BPB ..... 255½p (–15p)
Beecham ..... 440p (–15p)
Standard Chart. ..... 485p (–15p)
Pearson ..... 684p (–14p)
Coats Viyella ..... 262p (–13p)
Closing prices

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 8½%
3-month interbank 9-8¾%
3-month eligible bills: $8^{15}/_{32}$–$8^{17}/_{32}$% buying rate
US: Prime Rate 8¾%
Federal Funds 6⅜%
3-month Treasury Bills 5.68-5.67%
30-year bonds $98^{23}/_{32}$–$98^{31}/_{32}$

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£: $1.8850	£: $1.8865
£: DM2.9613	$: DM1.5705
£: SwFr2.3958	$: SwFr1.2692
£: FFr10.1696	$: FFr5.3255
£: Yen227.90	$: Yen121.05
£: Index:75.8	$: Index:90.5
ECU £n/a	SDR £0.757829

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM $486.50 pm-$n/a
close $486.00-487.00 (£259.00-259.75)
New York:
Comex $486.00-486.50

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Feb.) — $17.35 bbl ($17.70)
Thursday's Close

Wall Street	24	Traded Opts	24
Money Mrkts	24	Commodities	24
Foreign Exch	24	Comment	25

☆☆☆☆☆☆

Britoil plans 'robust' fight

Study will show asset value dwarfs BP bid

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Britoil, the world's largest pure exploration group, based in Glasgow, is preparing a "robust defence" to send BP and its takeover bid back over the border in disarray.

The determination of Britoil, set up by the Government from its portfolio of nationalized North Sea assets and now sitting on valuable oil discoveries in Egypt, Angola, Colombia, Gabon and Indonesia, to resist the BP takeover, is expected to lead to direct Government intervention.

The Government has a "golden share" which allows it to veto any board decisions that go against the national interest. It has said it will use that share, but BP, in turn, has argued that it will go ahead with its takeover offer and is prepared to accept direct Government intervention.

Britoil is ready to meet any BP criticism of its management style and success record head-on. It will answer point by point any BP criticism.

It is also expected to produce details of a new valuation of the company, carried out by the consultant ERC, which will put an asset value on Britoil shares far above the likely offer from BP.

Mr David Walker, the Britoil chief executive, is adamant that BP's offer will undervalue the Glasgow company. Mr Walker, a former senior member of the BP management, ran its operations in Australia and was involved in its North American operations before taking over at Britoil.

He said: "Our advice to shareholders is that they should resist the BP offer. Britoil is worth more than BP are prepared to pay."

He will also point to the recent Britoil exploration programme in the North Sea and its present production profile in answer to any BP criticism of Britoil's record over the past years.

"We have brought the Clyde field into successful production ahead of target and below cost and our partners in that operation, Shell and Esso, are the industry's major companies. They have been more than satisfied with our work.

"We have also drilled as many wells in the North Sea in the past year as BP and we are on the verge of large expansion overseas. Our staff in Glasgow have proven themselves to be the equal of any oil company staff in the world."

Britoil is incensed at BP's suggestions that it does not have the expertise or financial muscle to develop the company at the pace shareholders should expect.

It will point to a £100 million-a-year exploration programme and the fact that its geologists were the first to identify the Eocene strata in the North Sea as the source of new oil discoveries. Britoil was first to drill into that layer — geologists from other companies had always said the strata was "too young" in geological terms to hold oil.

Its initial findings have been borne out by the US exploration company, Kerr McGee, which this year drilled into the same strata on an adjoining block and found what could be the first big North Sea field for 10 years.



David Walker: adamant

BP itself has only recently become totally free from government intervention — ironically in a share disposal by the Government that went disastrously wrong and allowed the government of Kuwait to build a holding of almost 20 per cent.

BP says the Government never used its power to veto any of its proposals, has yet to do so at Britoil and there is no reason to suppose that it should in the future.

In addition, BP's corporate pride has been stung by the failure of the government sale of its 31 per cent stake and is in no mood to accept defeat over the Britoil issue.

The Britoil executive board is backing an alternative offer by Atlantic Richfield, the Californian oil explorer which wants a 49.9 per cent holding in the company and to merge its non-US oil assets into Britoil.

That option has the backing of most of the Scottish business and political community, but if BP makes a full offer, Arco, which has 21 per cent of Britoil, would have to counter with a full offer.

Arco has said that if it does have to take full control of Britoil it will do so, but has promised that the company will remain a wholly-owned subsidiary, enlarged by moving Arco assets into it, and will remain in Glasgow and be registered in Scotland.

BP is drawing up plans to announce a full takeover bid for Britoil on Tuesday and to criticize the recent Britoil record of exploration and investment. It is likely to announce a bid price of more than the 450p it paid to create a 29.9 per cent holding in Britoil. Indeed, many in the City are expecting BP to put a 475p a share tag on the company. It is also expected to sweeten the bid by leaving the existing Britoil operations intact in Glasgow and offer to move its British exploration and production department to Glasgow, creating more jobs.



Fending off futures: John Clayton at his home in Sittingbourne, Kent, yesterday (Photograph by Ros Drinkwater)

Beating the hard-sell approach

By Lawrence Lever

Mr John Clayton, a computer service engineer, has succeeded in fending off attempts by DPR Futures to persuade him to buy futures contracts.

Mr Clayton, aged 39, whose total equity investments are 150 Rolls-Royce shares and less than £1,000 in his company share scheme, says he had been receiving "strong encouragement" to deal in futures from an accounts executive at DPR. The three directors of DPR are Mr Marcus Deller, Mr Andrew Page and Mr David Rycott.

All used to work for LHW Futures, which had a reputation for using high pressure to sell futures contracts to private investors. Many of LHW's clients were largely ignorant of the workings of the market.

DPR is not a member of the Association of Futures Brokers and Dealers (AFBD) — the new self-regulating organization that will police futures broking and dealing when the Financial Services Act comes into force. Nor has it submitted an application for membership of the AFBD.

A large part of the Act is aimed at safeguarding the interests of private investors. When it comes into effect this year any investment business that has not received authorization — usually by joining an SRO such as the AFBD — will not be able to continue operating.

All authorized investment businesses will be subject to "know your customer" rules, preventing them from selling entirely unsuitable investments to their clients.

Mr Clayton has so far received three telephone calls from someone at DPR describing himself as "an accounts executive."

Mr Clayton says he had been told the commission rate for futures dealing would be 25 per cent of the total amount he invested. He had also been told his losses would be limited to the amount he invested, with a minimum investment of £1,600.

"I have heard about futures," says Mr Clayton. "I have read the occasional article. I know basic principles like gearing."

He says his name appears to be on several financial mailing lists. He responded to a direct mail shot from DPR which invited him to seek further details.

"I asked for financial records of his company but the accounts executive wasn't able to give them. But he did invite me to see his office."

The executive rang him once in an unsuccessful attempt to persuade him to deal in dollar futures. He rang back about a week later to tell him he would have made a lot of money had he acted on the recommendation.

DPR operates from an office in Mark Lane, in the City. None of the directors was available for comment this week, but Mr Ian Rycott, the general manager and brother of Mr David Rycott, a director, talked to *The Times*.

He said DPR had been trading for just over a year and employed between 30 and 50 people. As he was not a director, he said he could not comment on the question of AFBD membership.

New North Sea oil rush starts

By Our Energy Correspondent

Several leading North Sea oil projects put on the industry's "back burner" last year because of the weak world oil price are likely to be brought forward.

As many as nine developments in the central and northern area of the North Sea could be put before the Department of Energy for development approval, reports Wood Mackenzie, the oil industry's leading broker.

One of the projects Wood Mackenzie included in its original list of 1988 possibles, the Amoco Arbroath field, was given approval by Mr Peter Morrison, Energy Minister, two days before Christmas.

The fields seeking approval are Britoil's Don and Etterick, BP's Bruce and Miller projects, Shell's Osprey, Sovereign's Emerald, Hamilton Brothers' Crawford, the Sun Oil Glamis field and the Agip T-Block project.

By far the largest are the BP projects, involving spending of almost £3 billion, with the Agip project resulting in investment of £750 million and the Britoil plans involving spending of £550 million.

Names still flock to Lloyd's

By Our City Staff

Lloyd's of London, the international insurance market, continued to attract investors last year, so that its underwriting capacity at the start of 1988 is a record £11 billion. That is £1 billion more than last year and more than twice its £5 billion total underwriting capacity only four years ago.

According to Lloyd's year-end estimates, 2,600 new "names" began underwriting in 1987 while a further 8,700 decided to increase their underwriting commitments in the market.

The additions swell the total number of active Lloyd's members to 33,600.

The eagerness of investors to commit their resources to Lloyd's is somewhat surprising. The boom in membership began about five years ago when insurance markets were particularly depressed and when several scandals hit Lloyd's.

Several of the scandals involved members of some underwriting syndicates in very heavy losses, but although the Lloyd's image was tarnished it continued to attract growing numbers of investors.

Members are required to have a minimum wealth of £100,000. Lloyd's points out that although the majority of its members are British, there is now a sizeable overseas representation. US members account for 10 per cent of the market's underwriting capacity.

Since 1984, therefore, Lloyd's membership has risen by about 50 per cent. Its underwriting capacity accelerated from £5 billion in 1984 to £6.6 billion the following year. By 1987 it had reached £10.2 billion.

How Citibank changed tack in the battle for Dee Corp

By David Brewerton

Citibank, the international bank which is taking the leading role in financing Barker & Dobson's £2 billion takeover bid for Dee Corporation, offered to finance a management buyout of Dee last summer, it emerged this week.

The disclosure suggests that Citibank has taken more than a passive banking role in backing the Barker & Dobson bid for Dee which was announced one week before Christmas.

The buyout was suggested as a solution to the disappointing price performance of Dee shares, which in the summer were lagging far behind the levels at which previous share issues had been made, despite the then bull market.

Under the plan, Citibank would have put up a substantial part of the cash required for the Dee management, headed by Mr Alec Monk, chairman, to buy the company from its shareholders.

It is understood Dee's management did talk to Citibank about the plan, but the idea was dropped because of the difficulty of buying back shares at a price set below that at which shares had previously been issued. Dee shares have been as low as 143p this year, compared with the 237p at which 110 million shares were offered to shareholders in June 1986.

Comment.....25

The current offer for Dee values the shares at 222p, based on the Barker & Dobson price of 148.5p at close of business on Thursday. The offer is in cash and shares.

The £1.25 billion cash portion of the bid is being provided by a consortium of banks put together by Kleinwort Benson. The leading lender is Citibank, which is putting up £650 million, followed by Chemical Bank, which has promised £300 million.

Citibank is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Citicorp, which also owns the London securities business of Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers. Although the broker has no official role in the takeover battle, which is being handled for Barker & Dobson by Kleinwort Benson and its broking subsidiary Kleinwort Grieveson, the firm has established links with Mr John Fletcher, Barker & Dobson's chairman.

Mr Gerald Horner, a Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers director, said yesterday that his firm had not taken the idea of a management buyout to Citibank.

Optimists in majority on how shares will move

Footsie should march to 1,843

By Richard Thomson
Banking Correspondent

The City expects share prices to rise in 1988, although the increase will be only slight with the FT-SE index of 100 shares standing at 1,843.9 on December 30 next this year, 7 per cent up on Thursday's closing level.

Shearson Lehman/Messel's tenth survey of stock market opinion, published today, reports that the gilt market will also move ahead this year, with the yield on Treasury 13 per cent 2000 put at 9.4 per cent by the end of 1988 compared with 9.8 per cent now.

A third of the 310 stock market experts questioned for the survey believe that the FT-SE index will end the year at between 1,800 and 1,999. But this relatively optimistic view is countered by 17 per cent of the respondents who felt the index would fall from it present level to 1,599 or below. Only 7 per cent thought the index would rise above 2,200 by the end of the year.

The survey revealed expectations of a generally stable year on most aspects of the economy.

Britain's economic growth rate is expected to slow from 4 per cent last year to around 2.7 per cent this year. Although a rapidly rising money supply may cause the Government some problems, most other financial variables will stay under control, the experts believe.

Bank base rates are generally expected to ease upwards from 8.5 to 10.5 per cent during the year. The current account deficit is forecast to rise to about £3.5 billion, but inflation will remain moderate at around 4.8 per cent on the retail price index by next December. Wage inflation will remain at more than 7 per cent.

The pound will stay firm on foreign exchanges, with the trade-weighted index at 78 by the end of the year. Most respondents believe that sterling's rate against the dollar will be between $1.60 and $1.79, although a significant number (37 per cent) believe the rate will be $1.80 to $1.99.

These predictions closely match the consensus of private economic forecasts and the Treasury's official view issued at the time of the Autumn Statement, the survey says.

● Salomon Brothers, the US investment bank, predicts further crises in financial markets this year in a review of future economic trends published this week. After an initial period of sluggishness, US economic activity will revive, pushing up inflation and creating fears of further inflation.

At the same time, leading industrial countries will be unable to agree on policies adequate to reduce structural trade and payments imbalances. Higher US interest rates and support from foreign monetary authorities will therefore be needed to maintain the continued support of reluctant foreign investors in the US economy.

According to Salomon, the dollar will continue to weaken, but not as fast as it has done recently. The persistently high US current account deficit and rising US inflation will undermine the dollar which, by the end of the year, will breach the Y120 level against the yen and DM1.50 against the mark.

Stock markets, however, are not likely to have as bad a year as they did in 1987. The British market is now too low, and Salomon earmarks it as an area for good investments. The US stock market will also offer attractive opportunities because of the pick-up in the US economy, but Japan should be treated with caution. The Tokyo market's relatively high level compared with other world markets could lead to profit-taking during the year.

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Broker expects metals to boom

By Colin Campbell

Mining analysts at SBCI Savory Milln, the brokers, are confident of a "buoyant metal market in 1988" and predict that gold will continue to be firm, trading in the $450-to-$550 an ounce range, and that base metals will remain strong.

The analysts do not believe that the expected increase in annual gold production from "new" mines in Australia and North America *will be sufficient* to depress prices unduly, and that because 1988 is an election year in the United States, the probability of a deep 1930s-style recession is remote.

There is a higher probability of politicians veering on the side of inflation, the brokers say.

Copper and nickel are likely to be particularly strong, they forecast.

"In the past there has been a threat of mothballed production coming back on stream at higher prices.

"This is no longer possible without the producers spending large amounts of capital. Having survived the biggest recession this century by cutting down capacity, producers are unlikely to rush back into production."

North American mining shares have recovered a large amount of their fall since the October market crash. However, Australian mining shares *have not risen nearly as much*, and "are extremely attractive at current levels," the brokers say.

Concerted action call by Japan

Mr Noboru Takeshita, the Japanese Prime Minister, said yesterday that policy co-ordination among leading countries was a prerequisite *for effective currency stability.*

He told a press conference in Tokyo that major nations should monitor and adjust their domestic economic policies to stabilize exchange rates.

He said Japan continued to call for action by the US to reduce its trade and budget deficits, while continuing its own efforts to expand domestic demand and open up its markets.

The statement issued on December 23 by the Group of Seven, and the Louvre accord struck by them last February, remained *intact despite the* dollar's fall to record low levels, he said.

The prime minister, who is due to meet President Reagan this month, said he expects to settle a bilateral trade dispute with the US over access to Japan's construction market soon.

"I expect a conclusion understandable to both sides on the issue, based on the principle of reciprocity," he said, without elaborating.

On domestic economic policies, Mr Takeshita said his government would seek economic growth without inflation by smoothly implementing measures to expand domestic demand.

USM companies come out of the crash fighting

Focus on the companies and faces to watch in 1988

By Michael Clark

Companies on the Unlisted Securities Market were hit harder than their rivals on the "big board" in the stock market crash but all of them have survived to fight another day.

There is nothing that concentrates the mind of a chairman better than seeing his share price virtually *halved overnight.*

One side-effect has been to lower aspirations, particularly when it comes to acquisitions. The sky-high exit price/earnings ratio appears to be a thing of the past and the habit of issuing shares like confetti to pay for them has also been curtailed.

The USM still contains many companies with strong management and the potential to achieve a lot over the *next few years. Here are just* a few of the companies, and the personalities behind them, to look out for in 1988.

There was little in the way of festive cheer at the Camden Lock studios of TV-am. The company's dispute with the Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians entered its 40th day yesterday with no sign of a settlement. Behind the dispute are attempts by management to end the Spanish customs practised by the technicians.

The man championing the television industry's cause is Mr Bruce Gyngell, managing director of TV-am. He has been striving to break the union's stranglehold on the *company by charming out* programmes helped by senior managers and secretaries who have braved the picket line.

His efforts have earned him a dressing down from the IBA which continues to be critical of the station's lack of serious news coverage. But *Mr Gyngell has worked his* own brand of magic. A daily diet of *Batman* and *Happy Days* repeats attracted a strong following among younger viewers which is being reflected in the surge of advertising, particularly from toy manufacturers, and now programming is almost back to normal.

In four short years Mr Gyngell has turned TV-am from a company on its last legs into a highly profitable concern. When he arrived in February 1984, the place was in turmoil and it was reckoned to be only a matter of time before the plug was pulled. The company was losing £500,000 a month and being trounced in the ratings *war by the BBC.*

Mr Gyngell applied his own unique brand of management which is paying rich dividends. The group now boasts 75 per cent of the breakfast-time audiences and is enjoying spectacular growth.

City analysts calculate that advertising revenue has risen by up to 45 per cent this year and expect pretax profits for the year to January 31, to grow from £8.7 million to £12 million.

Some have trimmed their estimates because of the dispute, although any downturn should be more than offset by reduced salary costs.







Men of the moment: Bruce Gyngell of TV-am, above, and, below, Howard Hodgson of Hodgson Holdings (left) and John Hughes of Hughes Food Group

Mr Howard Hodgson is not everyone's idea of a funeral director. But looks can be deceptive and as chairman of the Birmingham-based Hodgson Holdings he has rapidly established the company as the biggest publicly-quoted funeral director in the country. His New Year resolution is to ensure the company continues to grow.

Hodgson came to the USM in June 1986 at 85p and touched a peak of 298p last year. "We didn't escape the crash. The fall was 22 per cent compared with 30 per cent-plus for the rest of the USM," says Mr Hodgson.

The crash meant that Hodgson had to review its strategy on acquisitions. "Immediately after the crash I wasn't particularly happy about issuing shares to finance acquisitions. It was like being a private company again. I had to start thinking about gearing before I could make other acquisitions."

In its short time as a public company Hodgson has spent about £23 million on a total of 22 acquisitions financed by a mixture of cash and new shares. The biggest was Ingall Industries which it bought for £15 million from the House of Fraser in May and which handles almost 14,000 funerals a year.

"We have increased the capitalization of the company by 62 per cent and achieved a 142 per cent increase in turnover at a stroke," adds Mr Hodgson.

The funeral industry is fragmented in this country and Hodgson has had to rely on acquisitions to generate growth. But the crash has made this more difficult. "We would not expect to grow as fast as we have done in the past 12 months," he says. But he is determined to *pursue further acquisitions* and points out that there is plenty of organic growth in the pipeline as the benefits of recent acquisitions continue to filter through.

Another company which took advantage of the bull market to launch an aggressive acquisition programme was Hughes Food Group, the fish-to-cold stores group, headed by Mr John Hughes.

The group came to the USM in 1986 following a placing at 20p a share. It quickly lined up a number of small deals and last year turned to shareholders for an extra £15.6 million by way of a rights issue. Analysts reckon Mr Hughes, a blunt Yorkshireman, who knows a good deal when he sees it, always seems to have an endless number of them up *his sleeve.*

Hughes already boasts an impressive growth record with pretax profits last time leaping from £639,000 to £2.45 million in the 18 months to March 27. The group appears to be on target for £5 million this year after *recent figures showing pretax* profits up in the first six months from £1.02 million to £2.01 million.

Analysts reckon Mr Hughes intends to develop it into a comprehensive food manufacturing group and has already laid much of the groundwork. The City hopes the real benefits should soon start to filter through.

Shareholders in Acsis Jewellery must have thought 1987 was going to be their year after seeing the share price surge from 17p to a peak of 331p, at one stage. Month after month it headed the list of best performers on the USM. But like most high-flyers, it came down to earth with a bump after the stock market crash. It is now trading around the 80p level and still showing a healthy profit for those investors in at the start.

The man who caused the flurry of activity in Acsis was Mr Darryl *Phillips* who helped build South Africa's biggest advertising agency. The City clearly thought Mr Phillips could do the same for Acsis as Mr Martin Sorrell had done for WPP Group and turn it into a major force in the advertising industry.

Acsis was just a struggling "shop within shop" jewellery retailer when Mr Phillips looked at the group in May. He decided it was the ideal "shell" situation and with institutional backing quickly took control buying a 46.6 per cent stake in the loss-making Acsis for 20p a share.

Mr Phillips has no intention of trying to equal Mr Sorrell's feats at WPP with a series of David and Goliath acquisitions — the stock market crash has put paid to that. Instead he has said he intends to concentrate on acquiring small private companies in the advertising, sales promotion and public relations field.

Just before Christmas the group announced its first acquisition paying almost £6 million for Taylor Portfolio, a specialist hotel consultancy and sales promotion group. Other deals are no doubt planned.

According to the consumer experts, one of the best selling lines for Christmas was women's underwear, which should be encouraging news for the likes of David Parker, chairman of Debfor, the own-label lingerie and lace manufacturer.

When Debfor came to the USM in spring 1986 it was hardly given a second glance by a lot of City fund managers. Women's underwear is not one of the biggest growth *markets. But a couple* of shrewd acquisitions have changed the group out of all recognition and now the City is paying attention.

The first was Halle Models, the maker of nightwear, sportswear and children's wear, for which it paid £3.5 million in 1986 and the second, last year, was Birkin, the largest lace maker in Britain, for which it paid £9 million. These deals have broadened the group's trading range and are expected to form the basis of further expansion. Debfor is now *enjoying the benefits* of both acquisitions as well as the organic growth it had already started to generate.

In 1986 the group increased pretax profits by almost 50 per cent to £2 million and is reckoned to have achieved a final figure of at least £3 million for the year just ended with £5 million pencilled in for 1988.

WALL STREET

(Reuter) — Last-minute tax loss selling and worries about a *lower dollar combined to* drive stock market averages slightly lower in the final session of 1987. Utilities going ex-dividend next week dominated the active list.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 11.27 points to close at 1,938.83. For the year the average of 30 shares rose about 43 points or 2.3 per cent.

The closing level of the Dow average for 1987 was about 200 points higher than its finish on October 19.

There was no trading on Wall Street yesterday.

	Dec 31	Dec 30
AMR Cp	35¼	35¾
ASA	49⅝	49¼
Astra Life	45¼	44¾
Allied Signal	28⅝	28⅝
Allis Chlm	1¼	1⅝
Alcoa	46¾	47
Amax Inc	20	19⅝
AMR Hess	24⅝	25⅛
Am Brands	44½	42⅛
Am Cynmd	41¼	41⅜
Am Ele Pwr	28¼	28
Amerd	22⅝	23⅛
Am Family	14⅛	13⅝
Am Home	72⅝	71⅛
Am Int Grp	60	59⅝
Am Stand	36½	37⅛
Am Telph	27⅞	27⅝
Amoco Cp	69⅛	69⅝
Armco Steel	11⅜	11⅝
Asarco Inc	28⅛	28
Ashland Oil	57⅞	57⅝
Atl Richfld	69⅝	70⅛
Avon Prod	25⅜	25⅞
Bk Boston	22½	22⅝
Bank NY	25⅞	25⅞
Bankamer	6⅝	6⅝
Bkrs Tst NY	31⅞	32⅜
Baxter	22⅜	22⅝
Beth Steel	16⅝	17⅛
Boeing	37⅞	37⅞
Boise Casc	68	68½
Borden	46⅝	46⅞
Bristl Meyr	41⅝	43
BP	55⅜	56⅛
Brunswick	14⅜	14⅝
Burl Nth	62⅞	63⅜
CBS	157	158⅜
Cons Engy	13½	13⅝
CPC Int	40⅝	40⅞
CSX Cp	29⅛	29⅝
Camp Soup	27⅞	27⅞
Can Pacific	15⅞	15⅞
Caterpillar	62	60⅞
Centrl SW	29½	29⅝
Champion	34½	35⅛
Chase Man	22¼	22⅛
Chem NY	21⅛	22⅛
Chevron	39⅝	39⅝
Chrysler	22⅛	22⅛
Citicorp	18⅞	19⅛
Clark Eq	24⅜	24½
Coca Cola	36⅛	36⅝
Colgate	39⅛	38⅝
Columb Gas	40⅜	40⅛
Comb'tn Eng	29⅝	30¼
Cmwlth Ed	27⅞	27⅞
Cons Edis	41⅞	42⅛
Consol Ng	36½	36⅝
Cont Data	21⅛	22
Corning Gl	46⅞	47⅞
Crane	21⅞	22⅛
Curtiss Wrt	50½	51
Data Genl	23⅝	24⅛
Deere Co	35⅛	34⅝
Delta Airl	37⅛	38
Detroit Edl	13⅜	13⅛
Digital Eq	135	137⅝
Disney	59⅛	60⅝
Dow Chem	50⅞	50⅛
Dresser Ind	25⅛	25⅛
Dupont	87⅞	88⅜
Duke Pwr	42⅞	43¼
East Kodak	49	50
Eaton Cp	79¼	78⅝
Emerson El	35	34⅝
Emery Air	5⅝	5¼
Exxon	38⅛	38⅝
Farah Inc	7⅝	7⅞
Fedders	6⅛	5⅞
Firestone	31½	31⅞
Fst Chicago	18⅝	19
Fst Int Bancp	39⅛	39⅝
Fst Penn C	8⅝	8⅝
FT Wachvia	33½	34⅛
Ford Motor	75⅝	76⅛
GAF Cp	45	44⅜
GTE Cp	35½	35⅝
Gen Cp	22⅝	21⅛
Gn Dynam	48⅛	48⅞
Gen Electric	44⅛	45
Gen Inst	30⅝	31⅛
Gen Mills	48⅝	49
Gen Motors	61⅛	61½
Gen Pub Ut	26⅝	27⅛
Genesco	3⅝	3⅝
Georgia Pac	34⅛	34⅛
Gillette	28⅝	29⅝
Goodrich	40⅛	40⅝
Goodyear	80	80⅝
Gould Inc	12⅜	11⅛
Grace Co	24	24⅛
Grt Atl Pac	37½	36⅝
Greyhnd	25⅝	25⅜
Grumman	17⅞	17⅝
Gulf & West	71	71⅝
Heinz	40⅜	41⅛
Hercules	47	46⅝
Hewlett Pk	58⅛	58⅝
Honeywell	55⅜	55⅝
IC Ind	32⅝	32⅝
ITT Cp	45	44⅛
INCO	22	21⅛
Ing Rand Wt	35⅝	35⅞
Inland Steel	30⅝	29⅞
IBM	115⅝	116⅝
Int Paper	42⅛	42⅝
Irving Bk	43⅝	43⅝
Jhan & Jhsn	75⅞	76⅝
K Mart	30	29⅛
Kaisertech	11⅛	11⅛
Kerr McGee	36⅝	36⅝
Kimberly Clrk	50	50⅝
Kraft	47⅜	47⅞
Kroger	24⅜	24⅝
LTV Cp	2⅝	2⅝
Litton	72⅛	73
Lockheed	34⅝	35
Lucky Str	26⅝	26⅝
Man H'river	21⅜	22
Manville	2¼	2¼
Mapco	48⅜	47⅛
Marriott	30	29⅝
Mt Mardela	42	40⅝
Masco	21⅝	21⅝
Mcdonalds	44	43¼
McDonnell	59⅜	59
Mead Cp	34¼	34¼
Merck	158⅛	158⅛
Minsts Mng	64⅛	63⅝
Mobil	39⅛	39⅛
Monsanto	83	83½
Morgan Jp	36⅛	36⅝
Motorola	49⅝	50⅛
NCR	63⅛	63⅞
NL Indstrs	5⅛	5¼
Nat Distil	72⅛	71⅝
Nat Md Ent	18⅝	19
Nat Semi	12⅜	12⅛
Norfolk Sth	25⅛	25⅝
NW Bancrp	37⅛	37⅜
Occid Pet	24⅝	24½
Ogden Cp	27⅞	28⅛
Olin Cp	42	42
PPG Ind	33⅞	33⅝
Pac Gas El	16⅛	16⅛
Pan Am	2⅜	2⅝
Penney JC	43⅝	43¼
Pennzoil	71¼	70⅝
Pepsico	33⅝	33
Pfizer	48⅝	47⅜
Phelps Dod	46¼	46
Philip Mor	85¼	86⅝
Phillip Pet	14	13⅜
Polaroid	23⅝	24¼
Primerica	24¼	24¼
Procr Gble	85⅞	84⅜
Pub S E G	23⅜	23⅜
Raytheon	66⅝	66⅝
Rytdcs Metl	47⅜	46⅝
Rockwell Int	18	18⅝
Royal Dutch	111⅝	111⅝
SFE Sopac	48	47
Sara Lee	35¼	35¾
Schlumb	28⅝	29⅝
Scott Pap	70⅛	70⅝
Seagram	54⅛	55⅜
Sears Roeb	33⅜	34¼
Shell Trans	75¾	77
Singer	46⅝	46⅛
Smith Beck	48⅝	49¼
Sony Cp	37¾	38
Sth Cal Ed	30⅞	30⅝
SW Bell	34⅞	33⅝
Squibb	61½	60¼
Stanl Drug	55⅝	54¼
Stevens JP	25⅞	28⅝
Sun Comp	51⅝	52
TRW Inc	47¾	48⅜
Teledyne	304	306
Tenneco	39¾	40
Texaco	37⅜	37⅞
Tex Eastn	21½	21
Texas Inst	55¼	56⅛
Tex Util	27	27⅛
Textron	22⅝	22⅛
Travelers	35¼	34⅞
USG	29⅛	29⅛
USX Cp	29⅞	30
Unilever Plc	36¼	36⅛
Un Carbide	21⅞	22¼
Un Pac Cp	54	53⅝
Unisys Cp	32⅝	33⅛
Utd Brands	45⅝	44⅛
Utd Tech	38⅜	38⅛
Unocal	28⅛	28⅝
Walter Jim	58⅝	59⅝
Warn Lamb	67¾	67¾
Wells Far	43	43⅞
Westg El	49¾	49⅝
Weyerhsr	39	39⅝
Whirlpool	24½	24¾
Woolworth	34½	34
Xerox Cp	58⅜	58⅝
Zenith	14⅛	14⅛

CANADIAN PRICES

Agnico Eag	n.a	22¼
Alcan Alum	n.a	35
Algoma Stl	n.a	14¾
Can Pacific	n.a	20⅝
Cominco	n.a	15⅞
Con Bathrst	n.a	18
Hawk S Can	n.a	20¾
Hud Bay M	n.a	19⅝
Imasco	n.a	25
Imperial Oil	n.a	56¼
Int Pipe	n.a	43⅝
Royl Trstco	n.a	13¾
Seagram	n.a	71⅝
Shelco 'A'	n.a	22¼
Thmsn N 'A'	n.a	27⅞
Vanty Cp	n.a	3.10
WCT	n.a	15⅝
Weston	n.a	32

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
Allid Lyon (*346)	300	53	62	70	3	11	18
	330	25	42	50	9	22	30
	360	9	27	36	25	35	45
Bass (*820)	750	80	118	142	10	30	45
	800	47	87	113	28	52	72
	850	23	63	90	55	77	97
Brit Air (*145)	140	13	22	28	9	15	22
	160	5	14	20	20	25	34
	180	2	8	13	38	42	46
Brit Cons (*312)	280	42	57	67	3	17	22
	300	27	46	56	10	30	32
	330	10	30	45	30	45	50
Brit Gas (*125)	120	11	15	20	4½	9	14
	130	4	10	15	10	15	20
	140	—	7	11	—	22	25
BP (*251)	220	37	47	53	3	9	15
	240	22	33	42	6	20	27
	260	12	22	33	17	32	40
Britoil (*437)	380	85	95	105	7	20	25
	400	63	75	85	12	27	30
	420	37	48	62	21	35	35
Cons Gold (*955)	900	90	140	180	35	100	130
	950	60	110	150	60	140	170
	1000	40	85	120	95	145	210
Courtauld (*331)	300	37	55	62	4	16	25
	330	18	36	47	15	28	40
	360	5	25	33	35	47	58
Cons Union (*333)	300	115	17	22	60	78	88
	330	37	47	57	15	35	42
	360	10	22	35	32	50	60
C & W (*331)	300	5	15	27	60	75	82
	330	35	55	63	6	17	25
	360	18	37	45	17	30	37
GEC (*160)	140	7	22	33	37	45	53
	160	24	38	39	11½	8	8
GKN (*285)	260	8	10	17	24	27	34
	300	10	25	38	23	43	48
	330	4	16	29	47	64	68
Grand Met (*449)	360	2¾	10	22	77	87	90
	420	65	75	88	3	15	23
	460	38	53	66	10	27	33
ICI (*1092)	1050	15	33	45	23	45	53
	1100	83	105	140	23	58	67
	1150	34	80	118	44	93	119
Jaguar (*312)	300	17	62	96	67	116	135
	330	25	41	55	13	32	35
	360	11	28	43	27	45	52
Land Sec (*463)	420	4	20	30	52	65	70
	460	53	72	82	10	30	38
	500	25	48	58	30	55	48
M & S (*182)	160	9	33	43	43	58	70
	180	28	34	38	3	8	11
	180	11	20	24	10	16	22
R-Royce (*118)	200	4	13	18	22	26	32
	100	21	28	33	2	8	11
	110	15	21	27	4	12	17
Sainsbury (*217)	120	8	16	22	8	17	22
	130	5	13	18	16	28	27
	200	22	33	42	6	11	17
Shell (*1010)	220	9	23	30	12	28	28
	240	4	15	23	25	31	37
	1000	80	115	137	30	65	90
Storehse (*253)	1050	40	86	117	60	90	110
	1100	25	63	95	70	122	145
	220	40	53	58	2	10	15
Trafalgr (*308)	240	25	38	47	8	17	23
	260	12	27	37	17	30	35
	280	7	20	30	30	48	48
TSB (*112)	280	37	45	55	4	13	20
	300	20	32	42	12	22	32
	320	8	23	33	28	37	47
Woolworth (*257)	100	14	18	22	2	6	8
	110	4	10	13	12	17	22
	240	25	37	50	6	20	32
	260	15	30	40	15	30	32
	280	7	22	30	27	40	45
	300	3	15	22	50	60	60

	Series	Calls Mar	Jun	Sep	Puts Mar	Jun	Sep
Glaxo (*985)	950	110	145	185	62	85	102
	1000	85	120	160	87	110	130
	1050	65	100	140	115	137	155
Hanson (*127)	1100	47	83	—	150	170	—
	110	24	39	—	4	7	—
	120	17	32	37	5	11	14
	130	11	17	21	12	17	20
Hawker (*443)	140	7	12	17	18	22	26
	420	48	69	75	23	40	50
	460	28	40	55	47	62	73
Lonrho (*246)	200	49	57	—	5	10	—
	220	37	45	50	10	16	23
	240	23	33	40	20	26	33
	260	16	25	31	33	39	46
Midland (*385)	330	70	75	—	13	17	—
	360	50	57	70	25	30	40
	390	35	45	55	42	47	55
Sears (*128)	120	18	23	29	5	9	13
	130	15	18	21	12	18	19
	140	10	15	18	18	22	28
Tesco (*158)	140	27	32	36	7	12	13
	150	15	24	28	15	24	24
	180	—	15	19	—	34	36
Thorn EMI (*533)	460	95	115	—	8	15	—
	500	65	87	105	18	27	37
	550	40	62	77	45	58	65
THF (*217)	200	18	37	—	7	15	—
	220	28	37	—	15	23	25
	240	18	27	35	23	30	38
Unilever (*461)	460	45	63	78	35	50	60
	500	27	45	63	58	73	85
	550	15	28	47	95	110	117
Wellcome (*375)	360	55	67	87	28	42	52
	390	40	54	73	44	57	64
	420	25	42	60	62	72	80

	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
BAA (*88)	90	9	16	18	10	13	18
	100	5	12	14	18	18	25
	110	4	8	11	27	29	31
Brit Aero (*331)	300	45	53	62	13	25	35
	330	28	37	48	25	40	48
	360	16	25	37	42	58	63
BAT Ind (*438)	390	58	70	80	8	20	27
	420	38	50	63	23	35	42
	460	17	32	45	62	58	63
Brit Tele (*280)	500	9	20	—	87	83	—
	200	28	34	37	6	8	11
	220	16	22	28	14	18	21
Cadbury (*231)	240	7	15	18	34	27	32
	220	28	38	37	11	18	22
	240	15	28	22	28	33	33
Guinness (*288)	260	7	10	20	34	40	47
	280	25	35	45	17	28	37
	300	18	28	37	28	40	47
Lasmo (*182)	330	6	18	—	50	60	—
	300	25	48	55	13	23	28
	330	18	30	38	25	35	43
LASMO (*272)	360	9	18	28	43	57	63
	280	40	50	60	25	35	45
	260	30	40	50	36	45	55
Pilkington (*220)	300	20	30	42	47	60	67
	180	45	52	58	3	5	6
	200	28	37	43	6	10	17
Plessey (*144)	220	18	28	32	15	18	30
	240	10	20	26	27	35	47
	130	23	28	38	5	10	14
P & O (*501)	140	17	23	29	11	17	20
	160	9	15	20	23	30	33
	460	82	77	92	12	24	30
Prudential (*621)	500	35	52	65	27	42	57
	550	15	30	42	54	65	83
	750	95	110	125	18	35	45
Racal (*222)	600	60	75	95	88	55	62
	220	20	30	38	15	23	29
	240	11	21	28	28	34	40
RTZ (*359)	260	6	14	—	40	45	—
	300	65	85	105	12	22	45
	330	50	70	85	22	35	60
	360	35	54	70	55	70	75
	380	25	45	—	65	70	—
Vaal Reef (*116)	100	23	30	37	9	14	20
	110	16	25	32	14	22	28
	120	12	20	27	33	30	36
Barclays (*493)	104	2¾	—	—	3/16	—	—
	105	1 13/16	—	—	¼	—	—
	110	⅜	—	—	1⅝	—	—
Beecham (*439)	110	⅞	—	—	3⅜	—	—
	112	4⅝	6¼	—	5/16	1/32	—
	114	3¼	4⅜	—	1 3/32	1 5/16	—
Boots (*234)	116	2 1/16	3 1/16	—	2 11/32	2 15/32	—
	118	1 3/16	2⅜	—	3 1/16	4⅛	—
	120	21/32	1⅝	—	4⅝	5¾	—

	Series	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Glaxo (*1714)	1550	186	190	196	210	½	25	45	56
	1600	135	145	160	180	½	40	60	75
	1650	85	105	130	152	½	58	80	95
	1700	35	80	103	127	½	80	105	120
	1750	½	55	85	107	18	105	132	150
	1800	½	38	65	90	68	145	165	180
	1850	½	25	—	—	118	175	—	—
	1900	½	15	—	—	168	220	—	—

December 31, 1987 Totals: 11598 Calls 6676 Puts 4890 *Underlying security price.

FT-SE INDEX (*1714) FT-SE: Calls 739 Puts 1213

COMMODITIES

ICIS-LOR Group

The World Crude market ended the year in confusion and disequilibrium. Prompt Brent firmed on what is perceived to be technical reasons, and as a result the Feb/Mar spread has widened this week. It is now uneconomical to refine crude in Europe.

CRUDE OILS/assessed ($/BBL FOB)

Brent Phys	17.75	+35
15 day Jan	17.90	+05
15 day Feb	17.10	+15
WTI Feb	16.90	+05
WTI Mar	16.75	

PRODUCTS Buy/sell $/MT.

Spot CIF NW Euro - prompt delivery

Premium Gas .15	166-168	
Gasoil EEC	+2	157-159	+2
Non 2H Dec		153-155	
Non 1H Jan	-1	152-154	
3.5 Fuel Oil	+1	77 -79	+1
Naphta	+3	145-146	+3

BIFFEX

GNI Freight Futures Dry Cargo ($10/pt)

Jan 88	Hi 1230-1284	Low	Close 1295.5
Apr 88	Hi 1321-1375	Low	Close 1321.0
Jul 88	Hi 1170-1166	Low	Close 1166.0
Oct 88	Hi ———	Low	Close 1276.0
Vol 43 lots			Open Interest 1954

Dry cargo index 1263.5 +4.5 on 30/12/87

GAS OIL $ W Joyman

Jan	149.50-49.25	
Feb	146.50-46.25	
Mar	140.50-40.00	
Apr	136.25-36.00	
May	133.75-33.50	
Jun	134.50-34.25	
Jul	134.50-34.00	
Aug	137.

UK economy tipped as a fast runner on a slow world track

A year of currency turmoil and crashing stock markets is likely to be followed by one of uncertainty and slower growth, but not recession. That is the view of most economists at the beginning of 1988.

Britain, in line with other leading trading nations, will suffer from the slower rate of growth in many of its overseas markets but, as in 1987, it will probably be among the fastest runners in a slow field. The main question for Britain is how large the balance of payments deficit will loom and whether it will upset confidence in the pound.

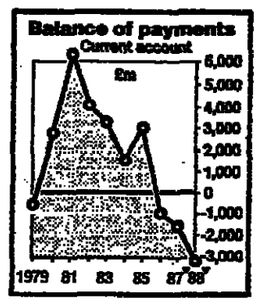
On the world stage there are two big uncertainties. First, how big a knock to confidence and purchasing power has the stock market crash delivered? Secondly, has the dollar now fallen far enough to bring US trade closer towards balance and to restore some stability to foreign exchange markets?

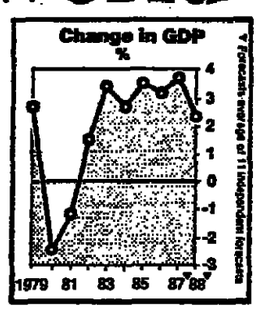
In its latest half-yearly *Economic Outlook*, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development takes a relatively pessimistic view, arguing that a further cut in the US budget deficit and expansionary measures in West Germany are needed to reduce imbalances in the world economy and calm markets. If that were to happen, says the OECD, the effect of the crash might be limited to a small slowdown in growth over the next two years. On that basis the Paris-based economists forecast a half-point reduction in growth for member countries between last year and this from 2¼ per cent to 2¼ per cent and another half-point cut to 1¾ per cent in 1989.

All are agreed that the effect of the crash is likely to be greatest in the US which has the most personal shareholders. But this will help reduce the US trade deficit. The fall in the value of stock market portfolios will encourage US investors to save more to rebuild their assets and will reduce their spending on imports. Retail sales fell back during September and October with little recovery in November. Add to that the export stimulus of the fall in the dollar, which has continued since the OECD projections were made, and there are some powerful forces acting in favour of a turnround in the US deficit.

According to Mr Peter Spencer of Credit Suisse First Boston: "The US trade deficit may have halved by the end of the year to $6 billion-$7 billion. But our clients will want to see several months of improved figures before confidence in the dollar returns."

Among the big losers from the improvement in US trade will be West Germany and Japan, whose exporters are finding the going tough. But while Japan has taken action to stimulate domestic demand to replace some of the growth lost in the export sector, the Bonn government has taken the view that stable policies, rather than attempts at demand management, will be more rewarding over the medium term. Forecasters therefore expect growth in West





Germany to stay very subdued this year at about 1½ per cent compared with 3½ per cent in Japan, the same as last year, and 2½ per cent (2¾ per cent) in the US.

Britain will be another country on the wrong end of the trade see-saw. Exporters such as British Aerospace, Jaguar and Wedgwood are finding that to remain competitive in dollar terms their domestic costs have to be pared to the bone. By and large Britain's exporters have made good use of the opportunity provided by sterling depreciation during 1986 after the fall in oil prices. But with unit labour costs still rising faster than those in most other industrialized countries, they will find the going tougher in 1988.

The crucial question for Britain this year will be how rapidly the trade deficit grows and whether this eventually undermines the pound, leading to a resurgence of inflation. As the deficit rose during 1987 the Government pointed out that domestic demand was significantly higher than in Britain's trading partners and that a temporary deficit was to be expected in those circumstances. But as 1988 begins, consumer spending is still strong and the combination of high pay increases and a strengthening sterling/dollar rate putting downward pressure on inflation is likely to keep it that way.

Investment intentions are also buoyant, says the latest survey. So it looks as though domestic demand in Britain may again grow faster than in most other industrialized countries, depending on any corrective action that may be taken in the Budget.

Most forecasters agree that the result will be slower growth in exports and relatively rapid growth in imports. The average expectation among the 11 independent forecasters tracked by the Treasury is that export growth will slow down from 5.1 per cent last year to 2.3 per cent this year but that imports will grow only slightly less rapidly than last year at 5.6 per cent against 6 per cent. The result will be a current account deficit anywhere between £4.7 billion (Cambridge Econometrics) and £2.2 per cent (Henley Centre for Forecasting).

With the exception of the Cambridge group, forecasts of consumer spending are mostly between 3.5 and 4 per cent. But there is much more uncertainty about investment, where expectations vary from an increase of 1.9 per cent forecast by Phillips & Drew to 6.8 per cent anticipated by Goldman Sachs.

The combination of continuing buoyancy in domestic demand and a slowdown in net exports leaves growth this year at about 2.3 per cent on average. This is well below the result for last year of about 4 per cent, but it is enough to keep unemployment falling gradually.

On average, the independents are more optimistic than the Treasury about inflation, expecting 4 per cent by the final quarter of the year against the present 4.1 per cent. The renewed rise in sterling against the dollar should help underpin that optimism.

In short, barring a balance of payments crisis, the outlook is for slower growth but still a faster rate of expansion than in most other countries, some further fall in unemployment and little change in inflation. If this turns out to be anywhere near the truth it is not a bad prospectus in a depressing world.

Rodney Lord
Economics Editor

City waits for more arrests and high drama as the Guinness affair rolls on

More arrests, charges and possibly the most dramatic criminal trial the City has ever seen are expected in 1988 as the Guinness affair continues to unfold.

It is unlikely that all the charges which have already been brought up by the fraud squad will still be intact by the time the Guinness affair comes to trial. However, more arrests are expected – possibly in the US as well as in Britain.

Moreover, it remains to be seen whether the investigations into the Guinness bid for Distillers will trigger further inquiries into other controversial takeover battles.

Although it began back in December 1986, the Guinness affair did not develop into one of the biggest ever City scandals until the beginning of this year.

Then, in the space of a few weeks, heads rolled at Guinness and at several City institutions as the full scale of the share price support operation for Guinness became known.

The full story behind the dramatic events which has so far led to five arrests has yet to be told. It is likely to come out in the Department of Trade report.

It is easy to forget that DTI inspectors started the ball rolling on December 1 1986. Since then their work appears to have been overshadowed, in terms of publicity, by that of the Metropolitan Fraud Squad, which is conducting its own separate investigation.

However, the police have had access to transcripts of evidence given to the DTI inspectors and these have proved very helpful. The inspectors' own report will not be published before all criminal proceedings are complete.

What is there in 1988 to await those involved in the Guinness affair? For a start there are likely to be more arrests. Police inquiries are proceeding in America, Jersey, Switzerland and, of course, on the domestic front in Britain.





Dramatis personae in the Guinness affair: top, from left, Mr Ivan Boesky, Dr Arthur Fürer and Mr Roger Seelig; and bottom, from left, Mr Gerald Ronson, Sir Jack Lyons and Mr Ernest Saunders

Moreover, the memorandum recently filed by the US authorities detailing the co-operation of Mr Ivan Boesky, the disgraced American arbitrageur, deliberately left blank spaces where names supplied by Boesky should be. These are the names of people who are still being investigated.

There is a section in the memorandum on Guinness. Boesky, it will be remembered, provided the information which triggered the DTI inquiry. He told the US Securities and Exchange Commission of his involvement in Guinness and the information was relayed to the DTI.

The Guinness section of the memorandum is a fascinating, but simple, account of how Boesky got involved in the Guinness battle for Distillers. While this section names various individuals, whom we cannot (for legal reasons) identify, it also leaves some deliberate gaps. "(Blank space) asked Boesky, among others, to purchase large amounts of Guinness stock to artificially affect its market price and make the Guinness offer more attractive," the memorandum states.

Later it says that "(Blank space) committed Guinness to guaranteeing Boesky against loss and to a specified level of profit."

More immediately, attention will switch to the High Court. Guinness this month is challenging the Takeover Panel over a ruling that the purchaser of a vital block of Distillers shares in the final stages of the bid for Distillers was acting in concert with Guinness.

The shares were purchased by two Swiss companies which are believed to be subsidiaries of Bank Leu, whose then chairman, Dr Arthur Furer, was a Guinness director. They were purchased at above the price of the Guinness bid so the consequence of the Panel ruling could be that Guinness will have to make an extra payment to Distillers shareholders.

However, the Panel only ruled on the "acting in concert issue." It has not decided that an extra payment should follow.

Guinness for its part maintains that the Panel is being premature. All the facts are not yet known.

It claims that it is too early to make a definitive judgement on who precisely was the purchaser of the block of Distillers shares.

On the criminal proceedings front it is likely, but by no means certain, that those who have already been charged in the Guinness affair will come to trial in the second half of 1988.

At the moment four of them, Mr Gerald Ronson, Mr Roger Seelig, Mr Ernest Saunders and Sir Jack Lyons have been remanded on bail until April. All of them deny the charges against them and claim to have done nothing wrong.

Lawrence Lever

COMMENT

Banker's sweet revenge on a reluctant Dee

Brokers were baffled when John Fletcher of Barker & Dobson disclosed the heavyweight banks backing his bid for Dee Corporation. Now they need wonder no longer. One, Citibank, had already looked Dee over and even proposed backing a management buyout last summer.

It emerges that Citibank, which is putting up the lion's share of the cash required to finance the Barker bid, approached Dee and suggested that a management buyout, financed by the bank, would be a neat solution to the problem of Dee's sagging share price.

Talks took place, but the gap between what could be offered to Dee shareholders in a buyout and the price at which the last tranche of Dee shares was issued was too great to bridge. So Dee battled on with its uphill task of convincing investors it had a fine future in food retailing.

Alec Monk of Dee now may be wishing he had opted for the Citibank solution, for he finds himself fighting against the determined Mr Fletcher and the firepower of some of the biggest banks in the world.

The battle proper will open next week when Dee sends out its first defence document in answer to the Barker & Dobson formal offer, which was issued within days of the announcement of the bid. Had Barker bided its time before rushing to the printers it may have produced a more robust document than the puny solicitation it managed. Be that as it may, the defence has to be out on Monday and will make no concessions at all to Mr Fletcher's ambitions.

If the Barker chairman thought Dee would roll over and give him an easy victory, he was wildly wrong, as demonstrated by Dee's appointment of a string of weighty advisers to man the defences alongside the doughty Monk.

Citicorp owns Citibank, which is putting up £650 million of the cash and also owns the London broking house, Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers. Shortly before the bid Scrimgeour downgraded its forecasts for Dee, as did a number of other brokers.

Dee has been having a thin time and analysts are concerned it might never be up to competing with the Sainsbury and Tesco operations, having gained its place in the supermarket superleague by picking locations where the competition was not too hot. Eighteen months ago, Dee purchased the Fine Fare chain of supermarkets from Associated British Foods, a deal that Mr Fletcher, now the Barker chairman, would like to have pulled off himself. That deal gave Dee its place in the superleague, but the integration of the Fine Fare (and Lennons) chains into Gateway has taken its toll on profits. The closure of more than 200 stores ate into margins and wiped out turnover growth at Gateway as a whole.

At the same time, Dee has diversified into sporting goods in the US through the purchase of Hermans. Since the acquisition in July 1986, Hermans has been nothing but trouble. Its distribution system could not cope with the store opening programme, and after spending a fortune moving stock to store in the first half, which resulted in a loss, the market crash dimmed demand in the second half.

Those acquisitions and the issue of shares to finance them produced the conditions that led to the management buyout proposal and eventually to the Barker bid. But ironically, the Fine Fare acquisition could yet come to Dee's rescue and give Mr Monk the breathing space he feels he needs to demonstrate he does have the management talent to build his empire on a solid base of grocery sales.

Associated British Foods is bound not to sell its 15 per cent stake in Dee, acquired in exchange for Fine Fare, without prior consultation with Dee. Just what constitutes "consultation" is something for the lawyers to haggle over, but ABF is unlikely to sell out to the current offer and other more modest Dee shareholders should follow that example.

Meanwhile, Dee will be looking very closely at the loan agreement, which is the backbone of the Barker offer, and is likely to make something of the deficiency of assets which Barker would be facing after a takeover. And that should concern Barker's own shareholders as much as Dee's.

David Brewerton

ABF has undertaken to retain for at least six months all the new Ordinary Shares which it is to receive. It has further undertaken that it will sell no more than 30 million shares during the following six months and that it will not sell any shares for two years after the acquisition without prior consultation with Dee.

FROM THE DEE DOCUMENT ON THE FINE FARE ACQUISITION

The hedge that shelters UK industry from dollar fallout

The storm over the potentially huge losses suffered by Airbus, the European aircraft consortium, after the steep fall in the dollar is largely a public relations exercise.

The initial reaction to the statement last week by M Michel Noir, the French external affairs minister, was confused. M Noir said the 25 per cent fall in the dollar last year would seriously hit Airbus's profitability because the sale prices of its aircraft had been fixed in dollars months, if not years, earlier.

Financial experts immediately asked why Airbus had not hedged the currency risk involved in the difference between the value of the dollar when sale prices were agreed and the actual value of the dollar when payment was received by Airbus months later.

In fact, Airbus's currency exposure *was* hedged. What M Noir meant was merely that on future contracts, Airbus would find it hard to quote competitive dollar prices because production costs in European currencies had not fallen as fast as the dollar.

Reading between the lines, M Noir was refuting the claim by US manufacturers that Airbus was dumping subsidized aircraft. He promised that there would be no government help to get Airbus out of its problems with a weaker dollar.

The importance of hedging for a company like Airbus is crucial where the lag time between price setting and actual delivery of the goods is so great. On some Airbus aeroplanes the lag is about nine months, but on the new A320, to start service this year, it is three years.

Contracts with a shorter lag time are nearly 100 per cent hedged so that British Aerospace, which makes wings for the Airbus consortium, knows exactly how much profit it will make however the dollar moves in the meantime. Longer contracts are not so fully hedged, mainly because of the difficulty and expense of obtaining long-term hedging arrangements.

But the hedging policy has changed as the dollar fell even further. With the US currency at its current very low levels (around $1.88 to the pound), BAe does not bother to hedge. At this level, the aircraft will be sold at a loss. As a BAe spokesman pointed out last week: "We are very reluctant to lock in an actual loss, which is what would happen if we hedged now."

BAe is therefore gambling that the dollar will not fall any further. But if it does, the company will make currency losses to add to its ordinary trading losses.

BAe is fairly typical of many British companies trading overseas. Some deliberately take a view on currencies. BOC was very successful at this in 1986 and made substantial profits from currency movements. Other companies simply hedge each transaction so they do not have to worry about currency movements. Jaguar, the car maker, with more than half its sales in the US, relies heavily on currency hedging, as does Grand Metropolitan, the hotels group.

Richard Thomson
Banking Correspondent

White goods sales growth 'set to continue'

Volume sales of domestic electrical appliances, including cookers and refrigeration and laundering equipment, increased by about 4 to 5 per cent in the United Kingdom during 1987.

The Association of Manufacturers of Domestic Electrical Appliances (Amdea), which estimated the figures, says they represent about half the growth of the previous year although 1986 was exceptional with volume growth of 8 per cent and value up 10 per cent.

The Amdea estimates point to sales increases in a range of refrigeration equipment, while sales of automatic washing machines were marginally down after earlier expansion. Sales of dishwashers, some of which are now produced in Britain, were up 29 per cent by the end of November. Sales of built-in hobs and ovens have soared.

The level of growth this year is expected to be approximately the same as that recorded in 1987, although a possible recession makes second-half projections difficult.

How far British manufacturers of such white goods benefit from such an encouraging continuation of sales improvements will depend on how they react to intensified competition all over the world.

Their volume sales were marginally better than the overall 4 to 5 per cent increase recorded last year, Mr Jim Collis, Amdea's director-general, said.

And Mr Jimmy James, chairman of the British operation of Electrolux, the Swedish world leader in the manufacture of white goods, said: "Almost without exception, our products in 1987 have been seeing sales at least as good as in the previous year and some a little better."

He discounted reports from some retailers suggesting that sales growth in electrical goods had not been as good as expected in the run-up to Christmas. The flow of guarantee cards, which gives manufacturers a ready check on how their goods are leaving the shops, has not decreased, he said.

Mr James believes the decline in mortgage interest rates particularly could fuel white goods sales. He added: "The only real threat is a world recession."

One of the most intensive pricing problems is in microwave ovens, a market which has developed more quickly in Britain than anywhere else in the world. This repeats a pattern seen for other new products, including video recorders, where uptake in Britain has been the fastest.

British microwave makers are anxiously waiting to see if the European Economic Community will listen to their plea for anti-dumping measures to be taken against South Korean producers, believed to be supplying between 35 and 40 per cent of the British demand for microwaves.

An answer is expected this month but, while positive European action is seen as crucial, the picture on British production is by no means all black. At one time 95 per cent of microwaves came from abroad but in 1986 the proportion dropped to 87 per cent and in the first nine months of 1987 it was cut to 78 per cent.

Three Japanese makers now manufacture in Britain – Toshiba, Sharp and Brother. The leading British manufacturers are Creda and Electrolux's British division.

Creda was once part of the TI group but was taken over last year by the General Electric Company (GEC).

Electrolux has the widest-ranging plan in microwave production in Britain and is streamlining production from three locations to one at new facilities just coming on stream at Luton in Bedfordshire.

This follows the Electrolux takeover last year of the appliance division of Thorn EMI which brought in brands such as Tricity, Bendix and, in gas cookers, Parkinson Cowan.

GEC's Hotpoint and Creda are challenging Electrolux for leadership of the British white goods market. Electrolux claims a quarter of the market and both it and GEC are well ahead of other rivals such as Hoover, with its leadership in vacuum cleaner sales, and Philips, part of the Dutch multinational.

Microwave penetration in Britain is about 35 per cent and the growth curve is flattening. The 1987 sales increase is being estimated at 3 per cent in volume and the value is expected to have gone down slightly because of pressure on prices.

A growing opportunity for microwave exports from Britain to the rest of Europe where markets are much less developed is seen by Dr Roger Baxter, Electrolux's managing director in Britain. Electrolux plans to supply the European market entirely from Luton, with production of 300,000 units scheduled for this year and rising to 500,000 next year.

Dr Baxter said: "There has been low penetration in other parts of Europe outside Britain but we have seen considerable growth this past year." The Electrolux plan is not to try to match simple, down-market products like many of those from South Korea but to concentrate on high quality features and new lines such as smaller capacity models.

Electrolux exports of vacuum cleaners is also rising. The company claims it is the biggest vacuum cleaner manufacturing operation outside the United States.

What seems clear is that the big operators, especially those with a complete range of white goods to offer retailers, will stand the best chance of holding or improving sales levels in the face of increasingly fierce global competition.

By the same token, the going is likely to get tougher for some smaller British manufacturers such as Lec, in refrigeration, and Servis, in laundering.

Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

First National Securities

Base rate

First National Securities Limited announces that with effect from 2nd January 1988 its base rate for lending will be 9½%.

First National Securities Ltd., First National House, College Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 1FB. Telephone 01-861 1313.

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Edited by Peter Gartland

FAMILY MONEY/1

The stay-at-home year

PETER GARTLAND previews the 1988 financial scene

■ The world's stock markets are at a crossroads. In 1988 they will either regain their calm or lose such confidence as they have retained since Black Monday. If the markets do lose their cool it is anyone's guess as to whether they drift aimlessly or go into free fall.

The biggest single factor in determining the direction of stock markets this year will be whether the United States can convince the rest of the world that it is serious about bringing its economic problems under control.

Few people believe that the recent budget deficit deal between President Reagan and Congress marked the end of the turmoil. The jitters on Wall Street and in London at the start of this week reflected not only concern over conflicting signals from the US Administration, but also a fear that decisive words will not be matched by action until after the presidential election in November.

The danger is one of panic leading to a full-scale recession. Peter Saunders, of Kleinwort Grieveson Investment Management, believes there is only a slight (15 per cent) possibility of a worldwide recession in 1988. He thinks it is more likely (45 per cent) that October's market fall will have a perceptible but not overwhelming impact on the real economy, and there is a good chance (40 per cent) that the real economy will disregard the financial crisis and economic growth will continue unabated.

■ **On this page we publish a selection of experts' investment predictions. There is some speculative support for the smaller markets of South-East Asia, but few good words for the US. The consensus is that 1988 is a year to stay at home. John Gittings, of Touche Remnant, even predicts a rise in the UK market of up to 20 per cent this year.**

The optimistic outlook for the UK market is supported by the Association of Investment Trust Companies, which canvassed some members and found overwhelming support for the UK. One Edinburgh-based investment trust management company, Baillie Gifford, is looking for a 25 per cent lift in the UK market.

Mick Newmarch, chief executive of Prudential Portfolio Managers, Britain's biggest investment management company, says UK equities are now more attractive as a long-term investment than before the crash. This is simply because they are now priced to *deliver a higher return.*

In a change of investment policy, the Prudential's moguls believe the 1988 outlook for the UK industrial and commercial property market is generally healthy. "A well diversified portfolio of properties should be a rewarding investment over the coming year," they say.

■ Residential property prices are also set to go higher. The *Government has pledged* there will be no let-up in extending home ownership, but continuing house price inflation, probably at around 15 per cent nationally, is sure to increase the difficulties of first-time buyers.

For people with a foot already on the home ownership ladder, higher prices mean welcome capital gains.

■ **Whatever happens in the share and property markets, 1988 will witness a range of upheavals in the retail financial services market. Out will go the requirement for employees to join a contracted-out pension scheme if their employer operates one. Instead, employees will be able to choose from a range of personal pensions marketed by insurance companies and other financial groups.**

The option sounds attractive and will no doubt focus on a *mixture of investment performance and freedom of choice* when the marketing reaches its zenith in the early part of the summer. But be careful. If your employer offers what the jargon describes as a two-thirds final salary scheme, and you do not plan to change jobs every five minutes, you could be sacrificing a valuable employment benefit by going down the personal pension road.

■ Coming in this year is the full force of the Financial Services Act, including a tightening-up in the rules on authorized investment advice. It should be good news for *consumers. Only time will tell* if it works out that way.

Expect a widening of investment powers for unit trusts and a further broadening of building society services. *Investors are hoping that* the Chancellor will take note of mounting pressure to relax the rules surrounding Personal Equity Plans. If he does not, Nigel Lawson could see PEPs become a dinosaur while he is still at No 11 Downing Street.

JOHN GITTINGS, TOUCHE REMNANT:



World stock markets seem finally to have stabilized following recent traumatic events. There is, however, little current evidence of a return of interest in equities by major institutions. Companies, *on the other hand,* appear more confident that present share values are attractive, as evidenced by the recent upturn in take-over activity and the renewal of buying-in of shares by companies, particularly in the United States.

Currencies will probably remain volatile, with the result that investment overseas will carry additional risk with it.

In our view, investors should properly adopt a more cautious approach during 1988. They should, nevertheless, also bear in mind that at current levels the majority of the world's equity markets now appear to offer fair value.

Looking at individual markets, we believe that the UK market, which has fallen further than Wall Street, will probably perform best in 1988 with a potential rise of 15 to 20 per cent overall.

Overseas, we would avoid Wall Street and be nervous of Japan, which has fallen least of the major markets. Selective holdings in Europe should, however, provide a reasonable return. Volatile smaller markets in the Far East should best be avoided, unless investors are prepared *to accept the relatively higher* risks involved.

In summary, make any *additional investments in the* UK rather than overseas, plan to reduce existing overseas interests to below 30 per cent, and reinvest in the UK. Maintain a reasonable cushion of liquidity.

HARRY LITTLEFAIR, ALLIED DUNBAR:



Like the dawn, a new year brings hope! The hope *in financial markets* for 1988 is that a world recession will be avoided. As the world stock markets have rallied in recent weeks, so too has the realization that an economic recession is unlikely this year. For most of this year, eyes will be on the United States watching to see if any benefits follow the recent budget deal between the President and Congress. If so, the dollar's weakness may slow down, but the sheer size *of the United States' deficits* may well leave the dollar lower over the year as a whole. There is some upside potential in the US market but political factors will take a front seat later in the year.

In Japan, good growth, a strong currency and good domestic liquidity should underpin what is now the largest stock market in the world. Sluggish growth in Continental European economies makes for little attraction in the early months, but markets look reasonably valued.

Of major markets, the UK looks the most attractive. The economy, profits and dividends will continue to grow, interest rates may fall a little (but watch the worsening balance of payments deficit) and the valuation of the market is modest.

FRED CARR, CAPEL-CURE MYERS:



In election year, it seems unlikely that the Americans will do much about their deficits or the dollar, which raises the spectre of inflation and corrective action later. The UK economy is fundamentally good, but for how much longer? Japanese growth has taken off, underlining their ability to make dramatic structural economic *adjustments. The major* economies in Continental Europe are likely to remain flat.

As for stock markets, the rallies on Wall Street and in London will probably peter out, if they have not already done so. The only things I would be confident about buying in either market are index-linked gilts. Japan is fascinating because of its economic strength and the relative absence of foreign investors. If there is any money to be make in major stock markets this year, I'd go for Tokyo. But, if the yen rises above 116, beware. Leave Continental Europe alone, except for Deutschmark bloc bonds.

Time is supposed to be nature's way of preventing everything from happening simultaneously but stock markets are not very obedient nowadays. This will be the year when passive investors should go 30 per cent *liquid* and then retire to bed (metaphorically), with a notice on the door saying: "Do not disturb until spring 1989."

PADDY LINAKER, M&G:



Despite the relative outperformance of the UK *market during* 1987, I continue to believe that the UK offers an attractive combination of economic growth, monetary and political stability. I remain cautious of the outlook for the United States. Little progress has been made *in tackling the fundamental* deficit problem. The only apparent policy seems to be dollar devaluation. This will eventually bring substantial benefit to US manufacturing industry, but the process will take a while and will meanwhile involve further uncertainty.

Japan represents rather safer value than the US but still looks rather high from a UK standpoint.

Europe has been a disappointing market that I would continue to avoid for the time being. Economic activity is sluggish — West German monetary policy is a restraint on both domestic and export growth.

The case for having a stake of 5 to 10 per cent in gold is, I believe, stronger than ever. *The US deficits mount, while* less developed countries continue to pose serious problems. Gold, which is the ultimate "funk money", could well attract more and more attention in the months ahead.

DAVID GLASGOW, KLEINWORT BARRINGTON:



It is all too easy to be swept along by hyperbole. October 19, 1987, seems accepted as Black Monday, melt-down Monday, the day of the crash. And so it was to many short-term traders, but what of investors — those who buy for the medium to long term? Even during the past year the Japanese, US and UK stock markets have all produced returns, and over three years they have risen in local currency terms by 90, 47 and 50 per cent. An emergency landing perhaps, but hardly a crash.

A year ago my view of 1987 **was one of cautious optimism for equity markets — optimism because of generally good economic indicators, and caution in view of high ratings on most shares after several years of consistent rises. In the event, caution was thrown to the winds everywhere except *in Europe until mid-October,* when suddenly it gained total ascendancy.**

This pattern looks unlikely to be repeated in 1988. Caution will not be thrown to the winds by investors more nervous than they have been for years and with economic *growth* prospects possibly dented by the market falls.

If there is to be recession in the United States, it will come in 1989 or 1990, but a lot can happen between now and after *the 1988 presidential election.* My current view is, therefore, again one of cautious *optimism, but for different reasons from those of last year.*

A mixed portfolio with some defensive UK fixed interest or convertibles now seems the sensible approach for most investors, with about half the equity content in the UK and the rest spread fairly evenly among *Japan, Europe and the* US. For those with strong nerves, South-East Asia could offer some excitement later, but at the moment the risks look too high.

GEOFFREY HARRISON-DEES, SUN LIFE:



The key questions for 1988 are straightforward — will the American budget package eventually achieve a soft landing for the economy without recourse to a period of recession, and will the dollar stabilize? This is US election year and up to November we can expect to see monetary policy relatively lax, and thereafter a return to tighter control.

Evidence of rising commodity prices suggests a trend towards rising inflation. This is likely to put a brake on any thoughts of interest rate cuts, but should underpin the dollar, which has some limited scope to strengthen.

Japan has shown remarkable resilience in the post-crash weeks. The outperformance and its perceived overvaluation will have a *negative effect on further* progress.

Although the stock market may be slow, the economy looks set to grow quickly, benefiting exporters as well as *the smaller Far Eastern* markets of Hong Kong, Korea, Taiwan and Australia, which will respond to the more relaxed attitude to imports. The smaller economies are not solely dependent on Japan, and the welcoming door of China is opening wider.

The outlook for the UK is most encouraging, and the economy is healthy with the expectation of further stimulation from Budget tax cuts in the spring. A stronger dollar will focus attention on exporting companies as well as improvement of the balance of trade in the second half of the year.

Although I do not believe the market will overheat during 1988, the opportunities available in the UK make it my favourite for the coming year, and of the smaller markets I would stick with Hong Kong.

KEY RATES

Retail Prices Index (Nov '86 to Nov '87)
+4.1%

Mortgage rate*
10.0%-10.5%

Bank base rate
8.50%

Bank prime overdraft rate*
13%-18% APR

Personal loan rate*
19.7% APR

Credit card rate*
23.1% APR

Hire purchase rate*†
28% APR

Bank deposit account
2.50-2.63%

Building society ordinary account
4%

High-interest cheque account*
5.90%

Holiday exchange rates*

Spanish peseta	198
French franc	9.88
Greek drachma	255
Italian lira	2155

* Typical rates
† £1,000 over 12 months
APR = annual percentage rate

THIS WEEK

Investment in 1988 1

The cost of a year's commuting 2



Antiques 2

BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	8.50%
Adam & Company	8.50%
BCCI	8.50%
Consolidated Crds	8.50%
Co-operative Bank	8.50%
C. Hoare & Co	8.50%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	8.50%
Lloyds Bank	8.50%
Nat Westminster	8.50%
Royal Bank of Scotland	8.50%
TSB	8.50%
Citibank NA	8.50%

UNIT LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

AETNA LIFE INSURANCE — 4/11, St John Street, London EC1V 4QE — 01-837 5494 — Life Funds

	Bid	Offer	Weekly ch'ng	Yld
Equinol	11.45	12.06		
Bear	11.86	12.37	+0.16	
Owl	14.04	14.76	-0.12	
Bull	12.73	13.40	-0.09	
Stag	13.01	13.70	-0.12	
Gilt Edged	11.67		+0.07	
Deposit	10.55			
Pensions				
Equinol	12.76	13.44		
Bear	13.36	14.03	+0.17	
Owl	16.06	17.88	-0.18	
Bull	15.05	15.85	-0.12	
Stag	15.09	15.89	+0.17	
Gilt Edged	12.44		+0.14	
Deposit	11.29		-0.01	
Exempt App Mixed	186.0	188.4	-1.78	

ABBEY LIFE — 80, Holdenhurst Rd, Bournemouth BH8 8AL — 0202 292373

	Bid	Offer	Weekly ch'ng	Yld
Property Fund Inc	218.9	229.5	+1.1	
Do Accum	318.8	332.5	+1.7	
Equity Fund Income	109.3	115.7	+0.7	
Do Accum	121.5	128.1	+0.7	
Selective Fund	263.1	277.0	+1.1	
Money Fund	248.1	261.2	+1.1	
Prop Fd Ser 4	234.5	251.2	+1.5	
Equity Ser 4	125.4	132.0	+0.5	
Man Ser 4	344.4	362.5	+0.4	
Conv Ser 4	210.9	222.0	+0.2	
Money Ser 4	218.6	230.1	+0.2	
Fixed Int Fd Ser 4	204.1	214.9	+1.3	
American Ser 4	223.0	234.8	-4.9	
High Inc Ser 4	260.8	366.5	+1.3	
Indexed Inv Ser 4	115.6	121.6	-1.1	
Japan Ser 4	238.4	251.0	-3.1	

ALBANY LIFE — 5, Darkes Lane, Potters Bar — 01707 42311

	Bid	Offer	Weekly ch'ng	Yld
Equity Fd Acc	807.8	850.3	-17.9	
European Fd Accum	178.4	187.7	-2.2	
Fixed Int Acc	330.6	347.9	+3.3	
Gilt Money Fd Acc	215.5	226.8	+1.2	
Intl Man Fd Acc	316.8	333.4	-8.9	
Int Fxd Int Fd Acc	186.4	205.7	+1.9	
Japan Fund	256.3	269.7	-8.1	
Nth American Fd Acc	181.5	190.4	-1.9	
Prop Fd Acc	239.7	251.2	+0.7	
Multiple Inv Acc	556.3	584.5	-8.0	

ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE — Allied Dunbar, Assurance Swindon SN1 1EL — 0793-28251

	Bid	Offer	Weekly ch'ng	Yld
Fixed Int Dep Accum	238.9	251.5	+0.2	
Equity Accum	670.6	705.9	-4.7	
Property Accum	368.4	387.8	+0.2	
Far East Accum	148.4	157.3	-2.5	
Managed Capital	312.7	329.2	-1.9	
Do Accum	332.0	350.0	-2.0	
Overseas Accum	142.6	465.9	-8.4	
Gilt Edged Accum	298.1	311.7	+2.2	
Amer Equity Accum	284.6	341.1	-7.1	
Amer Man Accum	154.5	162.7	-3.0	
Amer Prop Accum	123.5	129.7	+0.5	

BALTIC ASSURANCE — 125-35 Aldermanbury Street, London W1X 4AD — 01-493 9899

	Bid	Offer	Weekly ch'ng	Yld
Managed Growth	271.7	286.0	+12.92	
Managed Income	129.1	132.9	+7.27	
International	132.1	139.1	+7.04	
High Income	182.1	202.2	+11.77	
Income & Growth	254.9	268.4	+16.91	
Stock Resource	102.7	108.1	+7.85	
American	146.8	154.5	+8.45	
Japan & General	457.8	481.9	+7.03	
Special Situations	224.7	236.5	+16.00	

BARCLAYS LIFE — 252, Romford Rd, London E7 9JB — 01-534 5544

	Bid	Offer	Weekly ch'ng	Yld
Equity Accum	489.2	515.0	-1.6	
Do Initial	411.9	433.6	-1.5	
Gilt Edged Accum	254.3	267.7	+1.4	
Do Initial	190.7	200.8	+1.0	
International Accum	239.4	252.1	-5.1	
Do Initial	202.0	212.7	-4.3	
Managed Accum	352.0	370.5	+1.8	
Do Initial	271.2	285.5	+1.4	
Money Accum	198.9	198.8	+0.1	
Do Initial	153.4	161.5	+0.1	
Property Accum	239.2	249.4	-7.1	
Do Initial	192.9	203.1	+0.9	
Arabia Accum	136.6	143.8	-2.7	
Do Initial	117.3	123.5	+4.4	
Australia Accum	127.3	134.1	+0.3	
Do Initial	109.5	115.3	+0.2	
Financial Accum	221.0	232.7	-4.4	
Do Initial	183.7	193.7	-3.4	
500 Accum	263.9	277.8	+0.5	
Do Initial	223.3	235.1	+0.4	
Japan &Gen Acc 2	344.2	362.4	-12.9	
Do Initial 2	289.5	304.8	-10.9	
Income Accum	170.7	179.6	-1.4	
Do Initial	139.0	131.5	-1.4	
Leisure Accum	172.5	181.6	+0.96	
Special Sits Accum	135.0	142.2	-0.5	
Unit Trust Accum	96.7	102.0	-1.5	
Do Initial	83.9	88.0	-1.5	

BLACK HORSE LIFE — Mountbatten House Chatham — 5 Ken; ME4 4JF 0634 405161

	Bid	Offer	Weekly ch'ng	Yld
The Managed Fund	406.62			
Income Fund	400.0	421.1		
Extra Income Fund	388.3	388.7		
Worldwide Growth Fd	289.6	304.0		
Balanced Fund	333.6	351.4		
Smlr Co's & Fled Int	207.2	218.3		
Int Technology Fund	303.3	319.2		
N Amer & Gen Fund	200.6	211.5		
Energy Int Fund	110.5	116.1		
Pacific Basin Fund	234.2	246.5		
German Growth Fd	92.34	97.73		
Japan Growth Fd	147.7	155.5		
The UK Gth Fd	114.2	120.0		
Const Euro Gth	87.77	92.34		
Property Fund	204.8	215.6		
Fixed Interest Fund	201.9	212.5		
Cash Fund	171.7	181.2		
Managed Inv Fund	284.7	272.3		
Nth Amer Recov	95.0	100.0		

CANADA LIFE — 2-6, High St, Potters Bar, Herts — P Bar 51122

	Bid	Offer	Weekly ch'ng	Yld
Equity Growth	146.5			
Managed	182.2	191.8	+0.3	
Property	114.0	120.0	+0.2	
Gilt & Fixed Int	137.5	145.3	+1.3	
Index-Linked	132.9	139.8	+1.1	

	Bid	Offer	Weekly ch'ng	Yld
Equity	204.4	215.2	+0.4	
Cash	148.4	154.2	+0.2	
Midland Bk UT	196.1	206.5	-1.4	
Midland Bk Int	190.9	201.0	-4.2	

CANNON ASSURANCE — 1 Olympic Way, Wembley, Middx HA9 0NB — 01-902 8876

	Bid	Offer	Weekly ch'ng	Yld
Equity Units	289.09		+0.12	
Property Units	255.35			
Sel Gt Exempt Unit	£35.42	37.48	-0.08	
2nd Equity Accum	350.1	370.8	+0.7	
2nd High Inc/Accum	330.8	350.1	-1.2	
2nd Property Accum	243.0	257.1		
2nd Managed 2 Acc	119.9	120.8	-0.4	
2nd Managed Acc	258.3	287.0	-0.4	
2nd Managed 4 Acc	103.3	109.3	-1.2	
2nd Deposit Accum	186.9	196.7		
2nd Gilt Accum	186.3	207.7	+1.7	
2nd Amer Accum	203.8	215.7	-1.8	
2nd Int Money Ac	189.4	200.4	+0.5	
2nd Index Accum	112.1	118.6		
2nd Far East Accum	193.0	204.2	-3.5	
2nd Global Accum	71.0	75.0	-2.5	
2nd Euro Accum	72.9	77.1	-1.9	
2nd Japan Accum	130.8	138.4	-3.2	
2nd Heritage Acc	183.0	194.4		
2nd Int Curr Bond	91.7	97.0	+0.2	

CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE — Stanley House, 500, Avebury Blvd, Cntl Milton Keynes MK9 2LA — 0908-606101

	Bid	Offer	Weekly ch'ng	Yld
Property Fund	139.0	146.4	+0.9	
Money Fund	242.7	255.5	+0.4	
Managed Fund	421.6	443.8	+1.6	
Equity Fund	295.7	311.3	+1.6	
Fixed Interest Fund	161.1	169.6	+0.8	
Far East Fund	234.2	246.7	+3.2	
Nth Amer Fund	118.4	124.7	+1.3	
Nat Resources Fund	174.1	183.3	+3.9	
Alexandra Fund	105.4	111.0	+0.9	

CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INTERNATIONAL — Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH — 0272 290566 — Assurance Funds

	Bid	Offer	Weekly ch'ng	Yld
Mixed	139.1	146.5	-0.5	
Equity	174.3	183.5	+0.9	
Property	139.3	146.7	+0.1	
Gilt & Fixed Int	123.8	130.4	+0.9	
Insured Secs	97.7	102.9	+0.1	
Cash	119.2	122.4	+0.2	
Nth American	94.6	99.6	-1.0	
Far East	228.1	132.8	-4.4	
International	105.2	110.8	-1.1	
Special Sits	145.6	154.5	-4.5	
Int Income	146.9	156.2	-4.7	
European	128.2	135.0	-1.9	
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	135.9	143.1	-1.5	
Equity	164.7	182.9	-7.5	
Property	132.1	139.1	+0.1	
Gilt & Fixed Int	135.1	142.3	+1.4	
Index Linked	122.6	129.1	+0.3	
Cash	129.9	136.8	+0.2	
Nth American	94.6	99.6	-1.0	
Far East Acc	188.8	198.8	-4.5	
International Acc	118.6	124.9	-1.4	
Special Sits	155.3	163.4	-4.5	
Corporate Flex	135.7	140.2	-2.2	
Cash	116.2	122.4	+0.2	
Nth American	94.6	99.6	-1.0	
Far East	128.1	132.8	-4.4	
International	105.2	110.8	-1.1	
Special Sits	145.6	154.5	-4.5	
Int Income	146.9	156.2	-4.7	
American Inc	86.6	90.5	-1.0	
European	128.2	135.0	-1.9	

COLONIAL MUTUAL — 24 Lucgate Hill, London EC4P 4BD — 01-248 9883

	Bid	Offer	Weekly ch'ng	Yld
CML U Assurance	155.17			
CML U Ass/Provntr	191.94			
CML U Ass/Cash	134.1	141.2		
CML U Ass/Equity	378.9	293.6		
CML U Ass/Pt	203.2	211.8		
CML U Ass/Mngd	218.3	229.7		
CML U Ass/Prop	284.7	278.6		
CML/Pen/Equity Cap	287.0	302.1		
CML/Pen/Equity Pty	165.1	173.7		
CML/Pen/Cash Cap	155.0	163.2		
CML/Pen/Fixed Cap	267.0	280.4		
CML/Pen/Fxd Int	257.7	271.3		
CML/Pen/Index Cap	133.6	140.7		
CML/Pen/Mixed Cap	161.4	161.4		
CML/Pen/Man Cap	313.3	329.8		
CML/Pen/Man Int	356.5	378.4		

COMMERCIAL UNION — St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3 — 01-283 7500

	Bid	Offer	Weekly ch'ng	Yld
Wsr Ann Accum (5)	292.32		+8.66	
Wsr Ann (5)	58.89		+1.74	
Prime- Managed	238.2	250.8	+7.0	
Prime- UK Equity	282.6	298.5	+8.1	
Prime- Int Equity	172.4	181.5	+3.2	
Prime- Property	137.6	144.9	+0.3	
Prime- Fixed Interest	154.1	162.3	+2.8	
Prime- Index-Linked	182.8	189.2	+1.1	
Prime- Cash	129.6	136.5	+0.1	

CONFEDERATION LIFE — 50 Cranbourn Lane, London WC2A 1HE — 01-242 0282

	Bid	Offer	Weekly ch'ng	Yld
Managed Fund	523.1	855.8		
Equity Fund	859.9	940.9		
FIP Fund	1250.888			

CROWN FINANCIAL — Crown House, Woking GU21 1XW — 04862 5033

	Bid	Offer	Weekly ch'ng	Yld
Life Managed Acc	318.3	336.1		
Life Fixed Int Accum	240.1	252.7		
Life Equity Accum	397.7	418.6		
Life Property Accum	188.9	199.0		
Life Inv Trust Accum	369.0	388.9		
Life Int Accum	289.5	301.5		
Life High Inc Accum	433.2	455.5		
Life Property Accum	182.7	202.9		
Crown Ent Inv A	541.4	771.8		
British Equity	613.6	645.2		
DBS Managed	282.2	212.9		
Growth Accum	218.6	230.0		

CRUSADER INSURANCE — Reigate Surrey RH2 8BL — 07372 42424

	Bid	Offer	Weekly ch'ng	Yld
Managed pen	88.4	91.4	-0.1	
Performance Plus	82.4	87.2	-0.1	
With Profit Pen	104.9	111.2		
UK Opportunity	110.0	116.4		
Euro Opportunity	74.9	79.5		
North Amer Opp	93.8	99.7		

	Bid	Offer	Weekly ch'ng	Yld
Far East Opp	83.6	88.5	-2.3	
Gilt Prop Series 1	148.9	157.8		
Gilt Prop Series 2	109.0	112.2	+0.1	
Fixed Int	102.2	108.3	+0.7	
Cash	102.2	108.1	+0.2	
Managed Pens	264.7	286.3		
Overseas	73.2	77.5	-1.1	

EAGLE STAR INSURANCE — Bath Road, Cheltenham, Gloucester GL53 7LQ — 0242 221311

	Bid	Offer	Weekly ch'ng	Yld
Secure Fund	110.7	116.6	+0.2	
Blue Chip Fund	138.5	146.8	+0.6	
Adventurous Fund	141.4	148.9	-0.5	
Performance Fund	144.6	152.3	-1.7	

EAGLE STAR/MIDLAND — 1 Threadneedle St, London EC2 — 01-588 1212 — Eagle/Midland Units 157.2 173.3 +2.9 4.73

EQUITY & LAW — Amersham Road, High Wycombe — 0494 33377

	Bid	Offer	Weekly ch'ng	Yld
UK Equities Fund	461.0	485.2	-10.5	
Higher Income Fund	496.0	511.5	-5.3	
Property Fund	308.0	322.7	+3.1	
Fixed Interest Fund	256.2	268.6	+1.1	
Index-Linked Scs Fd	105.7	111.2	+0.3	
Gtd Deposit Fund	188.0	197.8	+0.1	
Nth America Fund	179.3	188.7	-4.3	
Far East Fund	283.3	298.7	-4.1	
Europe Fund	165.3	173.9	-2.3	
International Fund	256.6	270.1	-4.5	
Mixed Fund	348.1	366.4	-4.5	

FRIENDS' PROVIDENT — Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH — 0722 336242

	Bid	Offer	Weekly ch'ng	Yld
Managed (Mixed)	159.7	168.2	+0.3	
UK Equity	193.8	203.8	+0.3	
Stewardship	196.9	208.4	+0.6	
Overseas Equity	143.7	151.3	+0.2	
North American	74.1	78.1	+0.2	
Pacific Basin	76.6	82.8	-2.3	
European	78.6	82.8	-2.3	
Property	152.9	160.7		
Fixed Interest	134.2	141.7	+0.2	
Index Linked	139.4	146.7	+0.3	
Cash	139.2	132.9	+0.1	

GT MANAGEMENT — 16 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7DJ — 01-628 6131

	Bid	Offer	Weekly ch'ng	Yld
GT Flex Bond Fund	179.2	188.7	+1.8	
GT Flex High Yield	219.5	230.9	+2.1	
GT Flex Far East	183.7	193.4	+1.8	
GT Flex North Amer	104.5	110.0	+0.4	
GT Flex UK & GE	107.9	113.6	+0.5	
GT Flex Worldwide	218.8	231.4	+1.8	

GENERAL ACCIDENT LINKED LIFE — 20/24 Addiscombe Road, Croydon CR9 5BS — 01-665 6411

	Bid	Offer	Weekly ch'ng	Yld
Managed	114.4	120.4	-1.5	
UK Equity	158.8	167.2	-1.7	
Fixed Int	123.7	130.2	+0.5	
Indexed Fixed	98.5	103.6		
Cash Deposit	113.1	119.1	+0.2	
Property	117.4	123.6		
International	91.9	96.7	-2.4	
American	72.9	76.7	-2.4	
Japan	152.4	160.9	-4.1	
Japan Smlr Co's	125.2	130.7	-3.3	
European	85.1	90.6	-2.5	
Pacific Fund	74.5	78.4	-2.0	

GENERAL PORTFOLIO LIFE — Crossbrook St, Cheshunt Herts — 0992 31971

	Bid	Offer	Weekly ch'ng	Yld
Portfolio Fd Acc	444.9		-0.8	
Do Init	349.3		-0.7	
Do Inv a	443.9	467.4	-0.8	
UK Equity	239.9	252.5	+0.9	
Overseas Equity	119.9	126.2	+0.3	
Smaller Cos	183.2	191.3	+1.1	
Gilt Plus	132.9	137.9	+0.1	
Do 88	134.9	140.6	+0.1	
Fixed Int Dep	131.1	136.8	+0.1	
Managed	139.1	146.4	-1.3	
Inter Man	138.4	143.7	-1.3	

GRESHAM UNIT — 2-6, Prince of Wales Road, Bournemouth — 0202 752000

	Bid	Offer	Weekly ch'ng	Yld
Managed Bond	443.6	446.5	-3.8	
Money Fund	350.5	355.1	-0.7	
Equity Fund	340.2	355.1	-4.2	
Fixed Interest Fund	158.2	166.7	+1.3	
Property Fund	248.4	261.7	-3.5	

Gresham Framlington

	Bid	Offer	Weekly ch'ng	Yld
American & General	191.6	201.3	-5.7	
Income	436.0	448.2	+11.3	
International Growth	247.1	259.8	+5.1	
Capital Fund	437.0	459.4		
Recovery Fund	329.6	338.7	+3.5	
Japan & General	154.2	162.5	-3.9	

GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE — Royal Exchange London EC3 — 01-283 7101

	Bid	Offer	Weekly ch'ng	Yld
Ass Prop Bds	506.8	532.6	+13.2	
Managed Initial	291.7	307.1	+10.4	
Do Accum	356.0	374.7	+12.5	
Equity Initial	343.3	361.5	+12.1	
Do Accum	431.1	559.1	+15.1	
Fixed Int Initial	271.3	285.7	+2.6	
Do Accum	291.7	248.9	+3.3	
Intl Initial	226.7	311.2	+8.4	
Do Accum	389.8	379.8	+10.4	
Nth Amer Initial	168.1	111.7	+7.0	
Do Accum	117.8	124.0	+4.4	
Pacific Initial	172.1	181.2	+4.4	
Do Accum	188.3	198.3	+7.0	
Property Initial	183.6	172.3	+3.9	
Do Accum	189.2	219.2	+4.0	
Index-Linked Initial	99.3	104.6	+2.1	
Do Accum	110.3	116.2	+2.3	
Deposit Initial	144.9	151.5	+0.2	
Do Accum	171.2	184.8	+0.2	
Euro Initial	66.5	70

FAMILY MONEY/2

How to find the cheaper route to town



The experienced commuter's mind turns to thoughts of season ticket loans at this time of year. With British Rail fares due to rise steeply on January 10, it makes a lot of sense for regular long-distance travellers to see if they can rustle up enough funds to buy a long-term ticket before the increases come in.

Malcolm comes in from Didcot, Oxfordshire. He travels the (officially) 40-minute journey to Paddington daily, and at present he has a quarterly season ticket that ran out just before Christmas.

Last time he bought his quarterly season ticket it cost him £399.80. A replacement before January 10 will cost exactly the same. But subsequent quarterly tickets will increase by £39.20 to £439. British Rail has said the rises are on average 6.5 to 7 per cent but there are variations, especially for season tickets, and the rise comes to almost 10 per cent for this particular fare.

Not surprisingly, Malcolm is considering acquiring an annual season ticket. This would give him several benefits.

In the first place, there is a straightforward discount that British Rail provides for receiving the cash in advance on an annual basis — though it is not a wildly generous reduction in itself. The post-January 10 annual season ticket will cost £1,524 and the new price for four quarterly tickets will amount to £1,756. The discount on the annual ticket will be worth nearly seven weeks' extra travelling.

However, buying a season ticket right now also involves Malcolm in extra savings on his fare to London. It means he will be purchasing the whole of his travelling in 1988 at the pre-January 10 prices. In contrast, if he continued buying quarterly season tickets, only the initial quarter's train journeys would be at the old price of £399.80 each.

The three quarterly tickets would involve an outlay of £439 each. So the total annual cost over the same period of purchasing quarterly tickets would be £1,716.

Thus the saving on buying the annual season ticket at the old price of £1,388 would, in fact, be as much as £328.80 or 19.15 per cent.

Then there is the convenience of buying just one ticket a year, requiring only a single queueing session at the booking office — offset to some extent by the slight risk if the ticket is lost. One loss of a season ticket in the year is deemed permissible by the authorities, which charge about £4 to replace it with a duplicate. Losing it twice sounds like carelessness and the hapless passenger may have to pay a very high proportion of the full replacement cost for the outstanding period.

Commuter needs to borrow whole cost

With an annual season ticket there is also the greater probability of some of the ticket being wasted at holiday times. The really organized commuter can time his season ticket purchases to coincide exactly with skiing in the winter and Mediterranean holidays in the summer. In practice, most people find some difficulty with timing their holidays and their work according to such a demanding and precise quarterly calendar, without resorting to messy and expensive weekly or even daily fares.

If Malcolm had accumulated some savings, the net cost of depleting them would depend both on the return he would expect to get from them and his personal tax rate. As Malcolm is not one of nature's savers, he will have to borrow all the capital he needs for the annual ticket. In this case, the cost will depend wholly on the interest charged because there is no tax relief available on this type of loan.

If the loan is repaid on a broadly monthly basis, the average outstanding balance on which the interest is calculated would be equivalent to roughly half the initial loan. There are more sophisticated ways of making the calculation but for these purposes this approach is good enough and easier to remember.

If Malcolm used his Barclaycard the rates of 1.75 per cent per month, or a 23.1 APR, would come to about £158 per year, eating up roughly half the saving. At the other end of the borrowing scale, the interest on an overdraft at, say, 11 per cent would be only about £75.

However, the best approach will be for Malcolm to ask his employer to make him a loan on an interest-free basis. In principle, interest-free loans to employees are taxable as perks, on the basis of an official rate of interest applied on the loan. The rate varies from time to time, but currently it is 10.5 per cent.

Fortunately, Malcolm will be able to take advantage of a special rule that if the deemed interest at the official rate on the loan comes to £200 or less in a tax year, there is no tax charge at all.

Malcolm has no other cheap loans from his employer and although the formula for working out the exact amount of deemed interest on such a loan can be complicated, £2,000 lent for a year, with the capital paid off regularly, would be well under £200.

Fortunately for Malcolm, his employer is prepared to make the season ticket loan and he decides to splash out £1,984 for a first-class annual ticket. His chances of getting a seat on the train will be substantially improved and it is only £267.20 more than if he had continued to go second-class on the quarterly basis.

Danby Bloch and Raymond Godfrey

Furniture tops the auction room lists

CONAL GREGORY examines the current antique investment market and looks at predictions for 1988

Furniture and Georgian wine glasses are the two top tips for this year, according to Phillips, the saleroom specialists. As items most likely to appreciate, they place modern British paintings and 19th-century watercolours, silver and portrait miniatures in the next three places.

Good-quality furniture, particularly fine 19th-century English and Regency, is in demand. In October a George III satinwood and inlaid sofa table with a rosewood crossbanded hinged top and dual splayed legs exceeded its saleroom estimate of £3,000-£4,000 to achieve £13,000.

Apart from at auction, the leading dealers in the British Antique Dealers' Association (20 Rutland Gate, London SW7 1BD) emphasize the strength of the fine antique furniture market. Paul Couts, of West Bow, Edinburgh, Michael Trevor-Venis, of High Street, Lewes, East Sussex, and Partner and Puxon, of North Hill, Colchester, Essex, all have good stocks of 18th-century mahogany and other woods.

Phillips, which catalogues about 1,300 sales a year, considers English glass of the 18th century undervalued. Jo Marshall, one of Phillips' specialists, says this sector has risen more than 20 per cent with 30-40 per cent for the rarer, such as the coloured opaque twist wine glasses. Delomosne, of Kensington, London, a leading dealer, offers simple drawn trumpet bowls for £100-plus but expects Jacobite engraved glasses to be £1,000-£1,500. Delomosne recently sold two blue and white opaque twist glasses at £1,500 and £2,500 respectively.

Zene Walker, of Burford, Oxfordshire, has a good glass selection and will advise the difference between English and the more white style of the Low Countries, which is of lower value. Incidentally, the firm's fine porcelain range includes 12 Toby jugs.

As last year, modern British paintings are recommended by Phillips. Lane Fine Art (86 Pimlico Road, London SW1W 8PL) says English art 1600-1800 is in demand but sporting scenes and animal portraits have lost their buoyancy.

Peter Johnson, a BADA member, from Lowndes Lodge Gallery (27 Lowndes Street, London SW1X 9HY), says there is "still much scope in 19th-century watercolourists". Hugh "Grecian" Williams is an example — he painted Scottish landscapes with Greek light. Other subtle Victorian colourists are William Callow and Charles Bentley. In the Newlyn School, Mr Johnson sold all 72 paintings of Ken Howard exhibited last May, ranging from £250 to £7,500, and all his "Visions of Venice" this Christmas.

Quality Old Masters will continue in demand. Ronald Cohen, of B. Cohen and Sons (35 Bury Street, London SW1Y 6AU), advises good 17th-century Italian, particularly the Caravaggesque painters and Carracci of Bologna. Impressionists achieved notable new highs in 1987, largely thanks to Japanese buying.

The strength of sterling against the dollar may see a slowing-down in US demand for long case clocks. Witney Antiques, of Witney, Oxfordshire, tries to maintain a good selection. The present range includes an eight-day mahogany by Thomas Stripling of Barwell for £4,950, one by Tribe of Portsmouth with a rocking ship for £2,950, and a splendid one by Joseph Newman of London for £5,950. London makers command top prices.

Silver — Georgian, Victorian and small pieces — are in demand. Phillips is expecting keen interest at its February 12 auction for antique silver and plate. Specialist dealers include

Old toy soldiers may be worth seeking out

Koopman, of John Dalton Street, Manchester, Reginald Davis, of High Street, Oxford, Mallory and Son, of Bath, and Perovetz, of Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1HL.

Portrait miniatures are appreciating above the trend, followed by stylish jewellery signed by important "names". Pewter is considered underpriced and often accompanies oak in dealers' specialities.

In the less usual fields, ivory carvings and jade are securing the top end of their estimates. Sporting manuscripts and 1930s to 1950s couture costume are keenly collected. Scientific instruments are due for more recognition in the coming year. Among notable dealers are Christopher Sykes, of Woburn, Bedfordshire, David Hansford, of Lincoln, and Nigel Raffety, of Kensington Church Street, London W8 4HA.

Finally, it is worth seeking out those old toy soldiers and 1960s tinplate toys. As Mr Johnson explains in *The Phillips Guide to Tomorrow's Antiques* (Weidenfeld and Nicolson, £14.95), they range from just £5 for an individual piece up to £20,000-plus for the rarer, mint sets. If you are reluctant to clear out the attic, this book will give the incentive. It shows that yesterday's everyday items have become today's collectables.

ANTIQUE INVESTMENT TRENDS

SECTOR	MOST IN DEMAND IN 1987	UNDERPRICED FOR 1988	SPECIALISTS' 1988 RECOMMENDATIONS
Furniture	Fine 18th-cent English decorative; Large sets of period chairs and early walnut; Edwardian furniture; 20th-cent designer names: Gimson and Russell	Signed Edwardian pieces 18th- and 19th-cent provincial furniture	To £1,000: Single fine period chairs To £5,000: Georgian and Edwardian bureaux To £10,000: Period dining tables highest quality Edwardian decorative Over £10,000: Early walnut; large sets of chairs
Paintings	Old Masters: 14th- and 15th-cent primitives; 17th-cent Italian; Impressionists; Victorian landscapes and sentiment	Italian primitives	To £5,000: Portraits To £10,000: French 18th-cent Over £10,000: Victorian topographical and fine hunting scenes
Modern British pictures	Upbeat, sunny images	Post-war names, e.g., John Piper; Scottish artists	Quality in all price ranges Over £10,000: The best of the Newlyn School
Watercolours and drawings	Quality Victorian decorative watercolours.Edwardian decorative subjects like gardens	Drawings and work drawings	Under £500: Wash, pencil and pen-and-ink drawings To £5,000: Victorian watercolours; pre-Raphaelite watercolours To £8,000: Good candidate watercolours of 1780-1830 Over £8,000: Important works
Prints	Unusual decorative items and those appealing to the Far Eastern market; Old Masters	Modern British prints	Under £100: Majority of modern British prints To £1,000: Good decorative and British prints To £5,000: Major modern masters and Old Masters
Carpets and rugs	Large carpets for the decorator market, especially good Heriz and Agra; collectors' Caucasian rugs	Good tribal rugs and artefacts (bags)	To £1,000: Shiraz To £5,000: Good antique Samaen rugs; Caucasians Over £1,000: Top Kashan, Tabriz, Heriz
Silver and plate	Good Edwardian canteens; coffee and tea services; Georgian salvers; Jubilee; crown trade silver; good modern silver and decorative items for the Italian market	Early silver spoons; wine-labels	To £1,000: Wine labels; soup ladles; spoons; old Sheffield plate; coasters; candlesticks To £5,000: Georgian/Victorian tea, coffee sets and coffee pots; casters To £10,000: Candelabra; Paul Storr and Benjamin Smith items; large canteens Irish silver Over £10,000: Dressing table sets, Victorian centrepieces; fine condition 17-cent silver
Jewellery	Fine coloured stones; art deco jewellery; Signed items of jewellery	Fine cameos; Victorian gold jewellery; Dickens Dickensesque	To £1,000: Victorian gold; long guard chains; good collared pearl necklaces To £5,000: 1950s gold "cocktail" jewellery; important modern wrist watches To £10,000: Diamond faces; Fabergé, Cartier Over £10,000: "Names", especially Fabergé; Burmese rubies; Burma/Kashmir sapphires
Ceramics and glass	Early English pottery; artist-signed Royal Worcester; English antique glass; 18th-cent Sèvres porcelain French paperweights	English drinking glasses;	To £1,000: Blue and white Delft To £5,000: 18th-cent German porcelain To £10,000: Fine early Majolica
Oriental	Chinese 18th-cent export porcelain, Japanese lacquer and soft-metal bronzes	18th-cent Canton enamel	To £1,000: Islamic wares; including To £5,000: Chinese blue and white porcelain Japanese lacquer To £10,000: Chinese furniture; Japanese 19th-cent signed enamels Over £10,000: Ming porcelain; Meiyo bronzes
Art nouveau and deco	Best examples by well respected designers and factories; Doulton advertising wares	Art nouveau arts and crafts and deco furniture; Doulton flambé animals	Good buys in a wide range of items, including furniture

Stamps in demand: Top-quality stamps and covers. Fine used stamps are better than mint. German states. For 1988: Postal stationery and history.

Coins in demand: Items under £2,000 in top condition. For 1988: Ancient British/Celtic coins

Medals in demand: Good groups in £1,000-£3,000 range; First and Second World War gallantry groups. For 1988: 1914 Star groups and trios

Other specialities. High demand for: Musical instruments, especially violins and cellos; English violins; Italian instruments of 17th-19th cent. Armour, cased pistols, blunderbusses. Moon artefacts, small Egyptian and Roman bronzes. Coloured-plate botanical books, travel, atlases. Couture costume by Chanel, Balenciaga, etc. 17th-cent embroidery. Oriental embroidery. Samplers. Early tin toys; 1960s tin robots, Britain's lead soldiers; Steiff teddy bears. Pop memorabilia, especially Beatles. Cricket books; golf art. Royal ephemera. Recommended for 1988: Good French violins. Small swords, early pistols. Inca pottery vessels. Roman glass. Printed books of 16th cent, 18th cent male costume. 19th- and 19th-cent fans. Portrait miniatures especially 17th-cent and Edwardian. Post-war tin novelty toys; Corgi diecasts. Manuscripts featuring Beatles songs. Royal ephemera. 1920s and 1930s teddy bears

Source: Phillips

Queen's Bench Division — Law Report January 2 1988 — Court of Appeal

Pharmaceutical data confidentiality

Regina v Licensing Authority, Ex parte Smith Kline & French Laboratories Ltd

Before Mr Justice Henry

[Judgment December 21]

The authority responsible, under section 6 of the Medicines Act 1968 for the grant of product licences for pharmaceutical products, could not lawfully make use of technical data supplied to it confidentially by the existing holder of the product licence and originator of the particular pharmaceutical product, in the authority's assessment of applications by companies for product licences in respect of generic versions of the particular product.

The correct procedure for the authority was to ask whether the particular applicant for a generic version had demonstrated to the authority that his product was essentially similar to the established product, and not whether comparison with the originator's confidential data showed or confirmed that his product was essentially similar.

There was nothing in the 1968 Act to show an intention to deny or limit the ordinary protection attaching to material provided in confidence to the authority for the specific purpose of obtaining a licence.

Mr Justice Henry so held in a reserved judgment in the Queen's Bench Division when he granted the application for judicial review of the applicant, Smith Kline & French Laboratories Ltd, against the policy of the licensing authority communicated to the applicant in a letter from the Department of Health and Social Security of August 21, 1987, with regard to its proposed use of the applicant's confidential material in assessing applications for product licences of generic versions of their pharmaceutical product, cimetidine (used for controlling gastric acid secretion and healing peptic ulceration). The terms of the relief granted were adjourned.

Mr Jeremy Lever, QC and Mr Derrick Turriff for the applicants; Mr Andrew Collins and Miss Helen Rogers for the licensing authority; Mr Michael Beloff, QC and Mr Tom Sharpe for Generics (UK) Ltd, interested party; Mr Jeremy Sullivan, QC and Mr Henry Carr for Harris Pharmaceuticals Ltd, interested party.

MR JUSTICE HENRY said that cimetidine was commercially launched in 1976 after research and development which took more than 12 years by the applicants. The UK patents were granted in 1972 for 16 years.

Would-be licensees for the drug were in practice allowed to apply for their licences a year before the expiry of the 16-year period of absolute protection, which for cimetidine ended on March 9, 1988.

Five companies had applied for settlement of terms of licences of right under the patents, and two of those companies were the interested parties in the proceedings, hoping to be free to market their own version of the drug as from March 9, 1988.

Before that, they also required product licences under the 1968 Act to market generic versions of cimetidine. The applicants had submitted three applications for product licences in 1976 backed by eight volumes of documentation, which was of a highly confidential nature and constituted an immensely valuable asset to the applicants.

Subsequently, the applicants obtained further product licences for the same drug for a product derived from it by an abridged procedure under the 1968 Act, which procedure was also used by companies seeking applications for generic versions, and which did not require re-submission of all the data that had originally been in the original application.

Section 20(1)(b) of the 1968 Act was amended to oblige the licensing authority to consider any Community obligation if refusing to grant a licence, the relevant Community Council Directive being (65/65/EEC), as amended by Directive (87/21/EEC).

The effect of the amendment was that the generic applicant was excused producing the results of two categories of tests in three separate situations:

1 Where the generic product was essentially similar to a licensed product and the originator consented to the use of his confidential material.

2 Where efficacy and safety could be demonstrated by published scientific literature in the public domain.

3 Where the generic product was essentially similar to a licensed product, licensed for six years or ten years in the case of high technology medicinal products.

However, the generic applicant was only exempt from producing the results of certain tests if he could demonstrate those matters to the licensing authority; since the applicants did not consent to the use of their confidential material, the issue in the case was whether and to what extent it could be used under 3 to confirm the essential similarity of the generic's product.

The licensing authority originally did not claim the right to use confidential material without consent, but subsequently claimed the right to make limited use of it; from the evidence reviewed, his Lordship concluded that there was no assertion that there would be any public health risk resulting from the authority not having recourse to the confidential material for the limited purpose for which they claimed, nor would any difficulties or dangers follow if they were not to enjoy the claimed for unauthorized access.

Mr Lever contended, *inter alia*, that the word "demonstrate" in article 4.8 of the amended Directive should be given its full weight and meant "prove", which was accepted by his Lordship, so that the relevant wording of the amended directive was "...if [the generic applicant] can demonstrate ... (iii) that the ... product is essentially similar" to the originator's.

He submitted that as the proof had to come from the generic applicant, if the authority found that it could not be satisfied on the information put forward that he had demonstrated that his product was essentially similar unless it resorted to the originator's confidential material, then the generic applicant failed to demonstrate what the amended directive required.

Mr Sullivan submitted that in the context of an Act [the 1968 Act] touching on public safety the authority were bound properly to inform themselves from all available sources before answering the important questions their statutory obligations posed;

While they were not bound to look at the confidential material, whether they chose to or not was a matter for their discretion and they should not be fettered in their public law function by the introduction of concepts of confidentiality more appropriate to private law.

His Lordship found those submissions attractive since expert tribunals, whether formal or informal, were expected to use their expertise, and use of the confidential material for purposes of comparison was sensible when one was considering the essential similarity of complex compounds.

However, those submissions avoided rather than confronted the amended directive's wording in his Lordship's view and Mr Lever's submissions had to prevail.

Even if essential similarity were difficult to demonstrate without comparison with the confidential material then that would be more likely to reflect the legislators' desire to impose stringent requirements on those permitted to take the short cut of abridged applications rather than implying the authority could ease the generic applicant's task by relying not on his proof but on their comparison with the confidential material.

To answer the correct question it did not seem on the evidence, in his Lordship's view, that it was necessary to refer to the confidential material, nor would it be right to do so.

On the question whether the originator's material had been submitted to the authority in circumstances importing an obligation of confidence, it was common ground among all the parties that the applicant's material was obviously confidential, and his Lordship concluded that an obligation of confidence did arise.

The 1968 Act was largely silent on the question of confidentiality, and the licensing authority contended that it should be given a purposive construction since it was an Act concerned with health and safety which were of prime concern to the authority.

His Lordship was unable to find anything in the 1968 Act to enable him to read into it an intention to deny or limit the ordinary protection attaching to material provided to the authority in confidence for the purpose of obtaining a licence.

Confidence had been described as a limited proprietary right and his Lordship had found, *inter alia*, from the decided cases that private rights in the protection of confidence could not be so sacrosanct, since in proper cases they had to be subjugated to a competing public interest.

However, where a right of confidence would in ordinary circumstances arise, it was for the party challenging the survival of that right to show that the statute properly construed extinguished it, and not for the claimant to show that on a proper construction of the statute his right was preserved. The authority had not shown that the 1968 Act curtailed the applicants' rights in the confidentiality of their material.

It was a matter of fact and degree in each case whether the public interest excused the breach of confidence. On the facts, his Lordship found that there would be some detriment to the applicants by unauthorized use of their material; its proposed use would in many cases (even if perhaps not in all) assist the generic applicant in that it could well reduce both his waiting time and his costs in making the application. It was not in the originator's interest to smooth his competitor's path.

That detriment was not of the greatest. However, the public interest in the proposed unauthorized use seemed to his Lordship to be a convenience rather than a necessity. Weighing the two competing interests, his Lordship found on the facts that the public interest did not destroy the applicants' right of confidence.

In a situation where the authority believed it was essential to the performance of their statutory duty to make unauthorized use, they should, in his Lordship's view, notify the originator of their intentions in order that he might have the matter tested.

If that was likely to be too cumbersome in practice, then the authority might need legislation to define more precisely any limits they sought to impose on the confidentiality of material they received.

Solicitors: Simmons & Simmons; Treasury Solicitor; S. J. Berwin & Co, Bermondsey; Roiter Zucker, Hampstead.

Confirming registration cancellation

East Sussex County Council v Lyons and Another

Before Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Glidewell and Sir Denys Buckley

[Judgment December 18]

On an appeal from an order of a justice of the peace cancelling the registration of a person in respect of a residential care home made on the application of a registration authority under section 11 of the Registered Homes Act 1984, a registered homes tribunal should not confirm the order of the justice unless it was satisfied that there was a serious risk to the life, health or well-being of the residents.

The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by the registration authority, East Sussex County Council, against a decision of Mr Justice Farquharson (*The Times* July 27, 1987) on a special case stated by a registered homes tribunal in relation to a residential care home known as St Mary Astrid, 1 Charles Road, St Leonaards, East Sussex. The respondents to the appeal were the proprietors of the home, Mr and Mrs Lyons.

Section 11 of the 1984 Act provides: "(1) If — (*a*) the registration authority apply to a justice of the peace for an order (i) cancelling the registration of a person in respect of a residential care home ... and (*b*) it appears to the justice of the peace that there will be a serious risk to the life, health or well-being of the residents in the home unless the order is made, he may make the order ...".

Mr Alan Newman for the registration authority; Mr E. Somerset Jones, QC and Mr Michael Curtis for Mr and Mrs Lyons.

LORD JUSTICE GLIDEWELL said that Mr Justice Farquharson had heard a case stated under section 13(1) of the Tribunals and Inquiries Act 1971 by a registered homes tribunal. It had posed four questions of law. The registration authority appealed on two of those questions.

Section 9 of the 1984 Act set out matters relating to the refusal of a registration of a residential care home. If a registration was granted it might be cancelled. There were two separate procedures by which cancellation might be achieved. Section 10 provided that a registration might be cancelled "9(*a*) on any ground which would entitle [the registration authority] to refuse an application for ... registration".

Section 11 dealt with urgent procedure for cancellation. The ordinary procedure for cancellation was provided for by section 12 and the following sections.

The contentious questions posed in the case stated by the tribunal were:

Question (2) Whether on an appeal against an order made by a justice under section 11 of the 1984 Act the registration authority could adduce evidence relating to any of the grounds set out in section 10 notwithstanding that such evidence did not establish a serious risk to the life, health or well-being of residents.

Question (4) Whether on such an appeal if the tribunal found that on the evidence the appellant was not a fit person to be concerned in carrying on a residential care home but failed to prove a serious risk to life, health or well-being, the tribunal should confirm the order.

Argument had centred on Question (4). Mr Newman accepted that whichever way that was answered provided the answer to Question (2).

Section 11 provided that if a justice had before him an application for cancellation of registration and it appeared that there was a serious risk to life, health or well-being unless the order was made, he might make the order.

The registration authority could not properly make any application under section 11 unless it believed there were grounds for cancelling the registration under section 9 or 10. In addition it was clear that the justice could not make the order unless section 11(1)(*b*) was satisfied.

Mr Newman conceded that if a justice had before him evidence that the registered proprietor was not a fit person but nevertheless the evidence did not establish a serious risk to life, health and well-being, the justice could not make the order. Where the justice had made an order, what was the position of the tribunal?

When the matter came before the tribunal there was a hearing *de novo*. The question was whether, if the tribunal concluded that the proprietor was not a fit person but that there was no serious risk, it could nevertheless confirm the justice's order.

The argument advanced by Mr Newman that the judge had been wrong had the inevitable effect that the tribunal could confirm an order of a justice on a ground on which he could not himself have made it. That was a surprising proposition, but Mr Newman had reminded the court that an appeal to the tribunal was an appeal against the order made by the justice, not an appeal against the grounds on which it had been made.

His Lordship could not accept the argument. The appeal should be dismissed.

There was no reason why, if an authority had before it material which justified an application under section 11, which might nevertheless fail, it should not simultaneously adopt the route indicated under section 12.

Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, delivered a concurring judgment and Sir Denys Buckley agreed.

Solicitors: Sharpe Pritchard & Co for Mr G. C. Child, Lewes; Cooper, Carter & Odhams, Hailsham.

Actual merger proposals can be considered

Regina v Monopolies and Mergers Commission, Ex parte Air Europe Ltd

Before Lord Justice Lloyd and Mr Justice Macpherson

[Judgment December 18]

In preparing a report on the proposed merger between British Airways plc and British Caledonian Group plc, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission was entitled to consider the actual merger proposals as they developed during the preparation of the report. The commission was not restricted to considering only the proposals which stood at the time the Secretary of State of Trade and Industry referred the matter to it.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in dismissing an application by Air Europe Ltd for judicial review of the report of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission dated November 4, 1987.

Mr Michael Beloff, QC and Mr Thomas Sharpe for the applicants; Mr John Mummery for the commission; Mr Christopher Bellamy, QC and Mr David Pannick for British Caledonian; Mr Nicolas Bratza for British Airways.

LORD JUSTICE LLOYD said that the application was based on two grounds: (i) that the commission had acted beyond its powers in taking into account undertakings given by British Airways after the proposed merger had been referred to it, and (ii) that there was a procedural impropriety in that the applicants were not invited to comment on those undertakings.

In the course of preparing its report the commission had invited the chairman of International Leisure Group of which the applicants were a wholly owned subsidiary for his view of the proposed merger, whether it was in the public interest and what safeguards would be appropriate.

Prior to the referral, British Airways had offered certain conditional undertakings to the Office of Fair Trading. The applicants made no complaint about those undertakings although they had been unaware of them at the time.

In the course of the referral British Airways put forward certain further points as part of the proposals for merger, which included the surrender by British Caledonian of certain routes. The commission attached great importance to those points.

The applicants' case was that under the Fair Trading Act 1973 the commission had no business expressing views and reaching conclusions on the proposals as developed. Its task was to investigate the proposal as it stood at the time of the referral.

The commission could and should mention developed proposals and recommend under section 72(2) of the 1973 Act that British Airways should give undertakings to remedy the adverse effects but it could not report on the basis of the developed proposals.

After considering the 1973 Act and *R v Monopolies and Mergers Commission, Ex parte Argyle Group plc* ([1986] 1 WLR 763) his Lordship said that he could not accept the applicants' argument. It would be an artificial and pedantic requirement if the commission could only report on the original proposals and had to ignore developments which made the original proposals academic.

It would be even more so if, as suggested, the commission could consider developments but not report on them. What would be the point? The process would be less than helpful to the secretary of state.

The commission was entitled and bound to investigate and report on the matter as a whole. If the developed proposals were so radically different from the originals the commission could treat the originals as abandoned under section 75(5) of the 1973 Act.

Although the commission was entitled to take account of a developing situation and could not shut its eyes to what was going on, it should not allow itself to be in a position of negotiation with the parties. Its duty was to investigate and report not bargain and haggle. There was no suggestion that the commission had been involved with bargaining here.

On the applicants' second point there could be no possible complaint of unfairness in this case. The applicants had made it as clear as possible that they were not interested in limited safeguards and that as far as they were concerned nothing would suffice but a complete re-appraisal of the air licensing system.

The commission was entitled to the take the view that nothing would be gained by submitting the developed proposals to the applicants. It was entitled to assume the would get the same answer as before.

Mr Justice Macpherson delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Clifford Chance; Treasury Solicitor; Theodore Goddard; Linklaters & Paines

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HOCKEY

Duthie's fitness tested in Spain

By Sydney Friskin

James Duthie could return to the international scene after breaking an ankle more than a year ago, if he plays for Britain against Spain today in the four nations tournament in Barcelona.

The fitness of Duthie, who has made several appearances as a full back for Southgate this season, will be severely tested in this position by the Spaniards hoping to get the best out of their players in their own moment of crisis. They have to play-off with Poland within the next four months for the last Olympic place in Seoul.

Among the more experienced players in the British side in addition to Duthie are, Pappin, in goal, Bolland, Hazlett, Potter, Kirkwood, Grimley and Robert Thompson, all of whom were in the bronze medal-winning team at Ipoh, Malaysia, in April last year.

At the other end of the scale, Mayer, aged 19, from the England under-21 squad, could make his first appearance for Britain. Mayer, a promising wing forward, joins Rowlands, Rees, McKee, Burns and Garcia, who are similarly situated, all facing a period of trial for places in the Olympic squad.

Roger Self, the team manager, who is accompanied on the tour by Bernie Cotton, the assistant manager, and David Whitaker, the coach, said yesterday: "This is the first event in the last lap of preparation and the team selected indicates very much what our purpose is. It is an important exercise at the right time as we would not want to do this sort of thing later in the year."

Spain, like Argentina who are playing Britain on Tuesday, are taking part in the Indira Gandhi tournament in Delhi starting on January 10.

West Germany, who meet Britain tomorrow, have taken time off from their usual indoor programme but their intentions are not quite clear. At Ipoh they gave the impression that they were there only for the beer, but went on to win the tournament by defeating Pakistan 3-2 in the final after extra time.

TENNIS

Bates loses to injured Evernden

Wellington (AP) — Jeremy Bates, of Britain, suffered an embarrassing defeat in the quarter-final of the New Zealand Open, losing to Kelly Evernden who injured his arm.

"When I served at 2-1 in the first set, something snapped in my elbow," Evernden said. "From there on, I couldn't hit the ball hard because it hurt so much. Then the pain just disappeared halfway through the third set. I don't know exactly what it is, but I sure don't want it back again."

Despite this advantage, Bates still lost 6-3, 1-6, 6-1 as the New Zealander advanced to meet Ramesh Krishnan in today's semi-finals, although the Indian was given a surprisingly hard fight by Menno Oosting, of the Netherlands, before winning 6-2, 4-6, 6-4.

In the other semi-final, Andrei Chesnokov will meet Chris Pridham after both players had comfortable victories.

RESULTS: Quarter-finals: C Pridham (Can) bt B Derlin (NZ), 7-5, 6-4; A Chesnokov (USSR) bt T Wilkison (US), 6-4, 6-4; R Krishnan (India) bt M Oosting (Neth), 6-2, 4-6, 6-4; K Evernden (NZ) bt J Bates (GB), 6-3, 1-6, 6-1.

● BRISBANE (Reuter) — Pam Shriver, of the United States, raced through two matches to secure a semi-final clash with Claudia Kohde-Kilsch, of West Germany, in the Brisbane Classic yesterday. The world's No. 4 eliminated Radka Zrubakova, of Czechoslovakia, 6-3, 6-2 and then needed less than an hour to beat Claudia Porwik, of West Germany, 6-2, 6-2.

RESULTS: Third round: P Shriver (US) bt R Zrubakova (Cz), 6-3, 6-2; P Fendick (US) bt J Hetherington (Can), 6-3, 6-1; S Hanika (WG) bt J Halard (Fr), 6-0, 7-6. Quarter-finals: C Kohde-Kilsch (WG) bt M Bollegraf (Neth), 6-2, 5-7, 6-2; Shriver bt C Porwik (WG), 6-2, 6-2; P Fendick (US) bt P Paradis (Fr), 3-6, 6-1, 6-3; J Novotna (Cz) bt S Hanika (WG), 7-6, 6-1.

CRICKET

Top-order men go cheaply

Brisbane (Reuter) — An eighth-wicket partnership of 114 runs rescued Queensland after their top-order batsmen fell cheaply on the first day of their Sheffield Shield match against New South Wales yesterday.

Hohns, with 55, and Tazelaar, with 56, staged the revival and, although Gilbert took the last three wickets in seven balls, Queensland reached a respectable 278 before being all out to the last ball of the day.

Queensland were quickly in trouble after being sent in to bat on a well-grassed strip, losing Kerr for seven, Barsby for eight and Ritchie for four as they slumped to 36 for three. Gilbert topped the bowling figures, taking four wickets for 61 and Waugh had three for 49.

In Adelaide a batting collapse by South Australia allowed Western Australia to take a commanding position on the first day of their Sheffield Shield match.

Spearheaded by the fast bowler, Matthews, Western Australia dismissed South Australia for 158 and then scored 26 without loss by the close. Matthews ended with four for 41 in 21 overs.

David Miller, Chief Sports Correspondent, on the problems which face administrators

Paying the price for Faisalabad

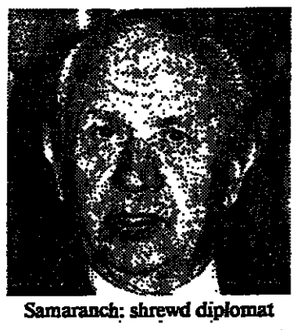
When Queen Victoria complained about the shortage of suitable candidates for the position of Archbishop of Canterbury, her close adviser, Lord Melbourne, observed: "Ma'am, there are not many who are very good at anything." Never has this been more true of those whose responsibility it is to provide leadership in sport.

A large slice of 1988 will be taken up attempting to put right the disarray of 1987: in cricket, athletics, football, rugby, squash, golf, and yachting. And everywhere there is the drugs issue.

Contemporary sports leaders are motivated either by political, commercial or social ambition. People such as the Princess Royal, president of international equestrianism, and Prince Alexandre de Merode, chairman of the IOC Medical Commission, have by accident of birth the position not to need social advancement, but they lack real power. Those such as Artur Takac, of Yugoslavia, special adviser to the IOC programme commission, and Dick Palmer, deputy director of Olympic Solidarity and secretary of the British Olympic Association, who dedicate themselves to the cause of sport, lack political ambition (or cunning).

The achievement of Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president of the IOC and a shrewd diplomat, has been to hold together a movement racked with rival factions. When Avery Brundage handed over to Lord Killanin in 1972, it was with the words: "Good luck. You will be lucky to have another two Games."

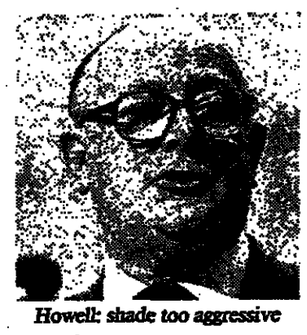
When looking ahead yesterday to events this year, I deliberately left cricket until today. The game is in chaos internationally, and to some large extent this flows from lack of leadership. We can only wait to see what will be the domino effect on behaviour towards umpires in junior cricket following Gatting's behaviour in Pakistan and the confused reaction to it by the TCCB.



Samaranch: shrewd diplomat



Maxwell: changing colours



Howell: shade too aggressive

One of the most depressing experiences of 1987 has been the extent of public sympathy extended to Gatting for his outburst in Faisalabad.

Lamentable action of TCCB officials

Those who commiserated, and Gatting himself as he sits at home gratifyingly reflecting on his fan mail, should pause to consider what would have happened had either Peter Shilton, or Bryan or Bobby Robson on the bench, similarly reacted when Ali Ben Nasser, of Tunisia, hardly the world's most experienced referee, allowed Argentina a goal off Maradona's hand in the 1986 World Cup quarter-final.

Robson or Shilton would, if not instantly sent off, have been subsequently disciplined by FIFA, and the FA would have been fined. FIFA may have some appallingly inadequate referees, but mercifully it does still uphold their decisions.

The behaviour of TCCB officials was lamentable, not least the awarding of a £1,000 bonus. Cricket administrators suffer, I fear, from a commendable faith in human nature, based on two centuries of communal respect for the laws, which is no longer justified.

I wholly agree with my colleague, Simon Barnes, in his condemnation of our colonial attitude towards Pakistan, but disagree on the alleged poor treatment of consecutive England captains. The truth, I believe, is that the majority of England captains recently have been unfit for the job because they have little idea, or training, how to lead their colleagues in the outside world.

Cricket has specifically failed to check its ills. No doubt Viv Richards will seek to restore West Indian dominance this summer by allowing his bowlers, with umpires' collaboration, to direct the ball at batsmen's heads. The game will long pay the price of Faisalabad.

Everywhere we turn, sport is compounding its problems. The inaugural rugby World Cup was a success, yet the international board has little idea how it will cope with mounting, unavoidable professionalism, while the suggestion by Ferasse, of France, the president, to include South Africa in the next cup, and the proposal for a Lions tour of South Africa during their centenary next year, are the chemistry of dynamite.

The position of Nebiolo, the Italian president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation, is in danger following the chaos of officialdom at the world championships during the men's 10,000 metres and steeplechase and the women's marathon, and the recent revelations of cheating in the long jump.

The R & A golf club, trustees of the last rampart of responsibly administered sport, earned public displeasure at Muirfield with their inadequate prosecution of the Open trophy. More significantly, they withheld the publication in the Walker Cup programme of an article on upholding amateurism because they were scared of upsetting their guests, the Americans — who provide some of the main offenders.

Festival not worthy of Blackpool Pier

We have a squash professional throwing his racket at the referee, a boxer punching the referee, an Italian goalkeeper laid out by fireworks, widespread Dutch football hooliganism, a rugby player kicked to death in France, and the America's Cup contenders playing most of their game in the law courts.

We have the FA selecting an England player while under police investigation when sent off in Scotland, and contemplating selling the FA Cup to a brewery; the Football League organizing a centenary programme which would get bad notices on the end of Blackpool Pier, and becoming embarrassingly confused in dealing with Robert Maxwell, who changes club scarves as readily as Christmas paper hats yet. On the evidence on his conduct over the Edinburgh Commonwealth Games, he is hardly the person to control one football club, never mind four.

The AAA, having succeeded the British Board as controllers of domestic athletics, have abandoned the only rational selection system, and seem as yet to have a less than comprehensive drug-testing policy. The Sports Council is busy trying to find out what is the Sports Minister's intended policy: and so is the Sports Minister.

The CCPR, like the SDP, would be happy to share a policy with anyone. Can you blame John Boulter, head of international relations at Adidas, rejecting the opportunity to return to British administration?

Neil Macfarlane, a former Minister for Sport, has proved Coubertin's dictum that taking part is more important than winning. He seldom got to the finishing line, but now he has his knighthood. Denis Howell, who once did a good job in that office, must be, as they say, as sick as a parrot.

Yet Howell himself has something to learn in international relations. He was a shade too aggresive in the international corridors when attempting to promote Birmingham's bid for the Olympic Games, and now that they are likely to try again, he could usefully try a different tack.

RUGBY UNION: OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS FOR EXPERIENCED HALF BACKS TO PROVE THEIR CASE AT TWICKENHAM TRIAL

England hope Probyn can pose awkward problems in the scrum

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

This time last year England discovered they had two evenly-matched sides, after the England XV beat the Rest 10-9 in the national trial. The eventual blend during the Five Nations championship gave them no substantial advantage either so England's reconstituted management will be hoping to see their shadow England team go several stages better in the trial at Twickenham this afternoon.

Trials, of course, require verdicts and all too often one has to dive into Scottish law for the "not proven" judgement, at least in a team context. But more information should be forthcoming about individuals before the selectors spend the rest of the weekend agonizing about the XV to play France, the World Cup finalists, in Paris on January 16 and the B XV against the same opponents.

Of last season's trialists, eight players have fallen by the way for reasons of form; two more (Barnes and Hall) are unfit, while Colclough has retired from international rugby and four others (Bailey, Pinnegar, Cusani and Macfarlane) appear at Twickenham today only as replacements.

But the newcomers include men of considerable experience: Melville and Cusworth at half back for England, Probyn at prop, newcomers only in that they did not play in the 1987 trial. Probyn may not have appeared in international rugby but, at 31, he knows most of the wrinkles of front-row forward play and is more aware than most that this is his best chance of unseating the long-established Pearce and making up for the disappointment he felt at travelling to Australia with the World Cup party last summer and ending it without a game.

It would be interesting to see what the senior French players made of Probyn. Certainly their B team made little of him at Bath last year when Marocco and Cantin ended by trying to punch their way out of trouble against the Wasps pair of Probyn and Simmons. He, I think, is the most likely of the four uncapped players in today's England XV to go forward to the Parc des Princes.

Paris is not the best place in which to introduce as many as four new caps, although if one has to play the French away it is better to do it early rather than late. The selectors have picked the England XV in the hope that it can go forward en bloc but it would not come amiss if, say, Webb and Simms discover their best form today.

That may sound discourteous as far as Hodgkinson and Buckton, who along with Halliday pulled out from today's trial after a recurrence of a hamstring injury in training yesterday, are concerned. The fact is, however, that the other two, Simms, in particular, know far more of what is required at international level. The North chose to ignore Simms in the divisional championship, but I would have few qualms about pairing him with Halliday, should he recover in time, in a fortnight.

The position at full back is peculiar this season: there are few outstanding candidates in Britain, leave alone England. Scotland's Hastings towers above everyone else, with Thorburn (Wales) next in line. Ireland have dropped MacNeill, London dropped Rose (who scored 41 of England's 48 points in the last championship season) and Webb, his successor, is not in form at the moment.

Hence the emergence of Hodgkinson, the Nottingham captain and stand-off half, aged 25, from the divisional championship. His goal-kicking has been exemplary this season, in and out of pressure positions. His catching and line-kicking have been uniformly good but I hope all his defensive skills receive a severe test from Harding and his cohorts today.

The fourth member of the uncapped quartet is Wells, the Leicester blind-side flanker and the seventh Yorkshireman in the senior side, having been born in Driffield even if his education was in, and present home is, Newark. Aged 24, he must ward off the challenge of Skinner and prove that his comparative lack of inches does not bar effectiveness to an old-fashioned blind-side flanker.

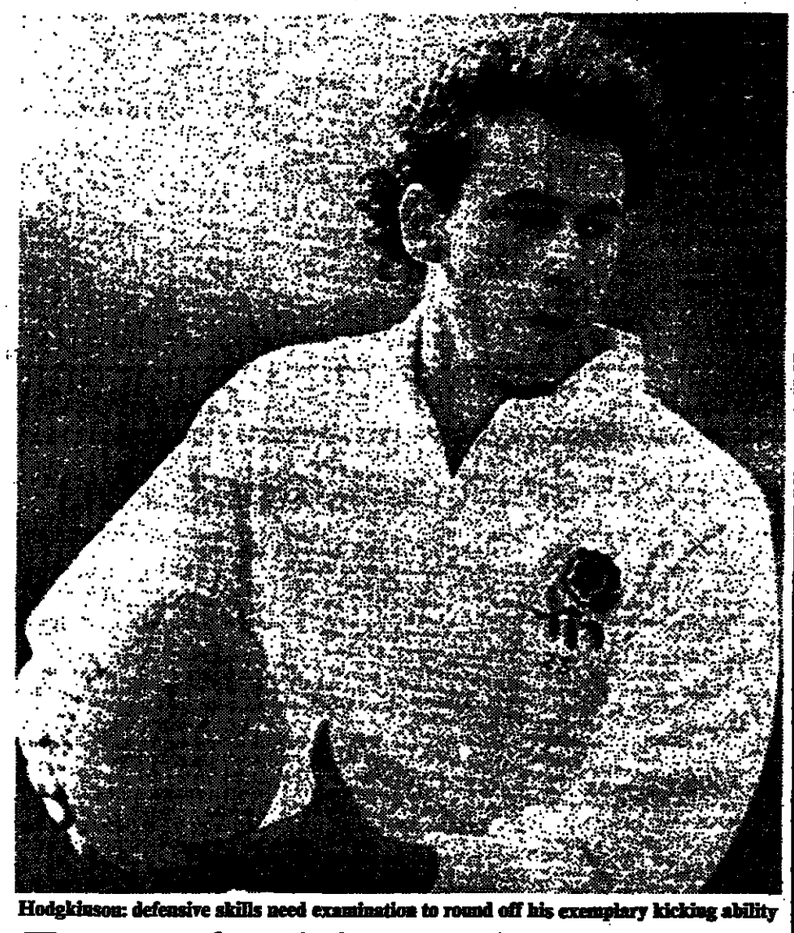
● Two members of last season's French grand slam side, Sella and Mesnel, hope to demonstrate their recovery from injury in club matches this weekend. Sella, the centre, has not played since September because of a badly-torn muscle in the right leg while Mesnel, the stand-off half, damaged knee ligaments last month. The French selectors announce their teams on Tuesday.

Trial teams

ENGLAND: S Hodgkinson (Nottingham); M Harrison (Wakefield, capt), B Bailey (Wakefield), A N Other, R Underwood (Leicester); L Cusworth (Leicester), N Melville (Wasps); P Rendall (Wasps), G Dawe (Bath), J Probyn (Wasps), J Wells (Leicester), W Dooley (Fylde), N Redman (Bath), P Winterbottom (Headingley), D Richards (Leicester).

ENGLAND B: J Webb (Bristol); J Bentley (Sale), W Carling (Durham University), K Simms (Wasps), C Oti (Cambridge University); R Andrew (Wasps), R Harding (Bristol, captain); G Chilcott (Bath), S Moore (Nottingham), G Pearce (Northampton), M Skinner (Harlequins), J Orwin (Bedford), S O'Leary (Wasps), G Rees (Nottingham), D Egerton (Bath).

Referee: B Stirling (Ireland).



Hodgkinson: defensive skills need examination to round off his exemplary kicking ability

Bentley slips through the net

By Michael Stevenson

When Geoff Cooke, the England manager-coach, resisted the temptation to bring undue pressure to bear upon divisional selection this autumn; it meant that several players would miss the divisional matches but creep almost unnoticed into today's England trial.

Perhaps the most interesting selection of all is that of John Bentley, the Sale and Yorkshire centre, a policeman, aged 21, from Cleckheaton. He will play the fourth game of his life as a wing threequarter. The other three were all for England Colts.

He was philosophical about his exclusion from the North team. Five of the seven centres selected for the England squad prior to the divisional games were Northerners, so somebody was bound to be disappointed once the North strode confidently towards the title.

Bentley, although he played amateur Rugby League at junior school, attended Heckmondwike GS which played little or no rugby and his link with the amateur game was firmly forged in his teens through his father's connection with Cleckheaton.

Now his father, a fireman and a crown green bowls champion and Yorkshire player and his wife, a nurse, are Bentley's most faithful followers. They will travel down to Twickenham for the trial. Bentley is also fortunate that Will Carling and Kevin Simms, his centres, are from the North.



Bentley: no to Rugby League

The qualities that have earned Bentley recognition at this level, sending the Rugby League scouts scurrying in the process, are unmistakable. Fast, very strong and an outstanding left-footed kicker, the only flaw in his armoury is occasional waywardness in timing his passes, which, some would say, makes his appearance as a wing, rather than a centre, more logical.

His own view is unequivocal: "I've never for a second considered myself as anything but a centre; I want to find out how far I can go in Rugby Union. That is why I am just not interested in the Rugby League approaches."

Bentley was outstanding for Yorkshire when he was still playing his club rugby for Otley. But Simon Tipping and Martin Whitcombe, his Yorkshire colleagues, had trodden the path to first division rugby with Sale and Bentley followed their lead.

Mike Kenrick, his captain, is delighted at his decision to concentrate on Rugby Union. "He's so big and very strong and much faster than he looks. He's a tremendous acquisition for Sale."

Doors are opening swiftly now. Although he has played only one game for British police, he hopes to go on the Combined Police and Services tour of New Zealand in May and he has been invited to play for the Penguins in the Hong Kong Sevens in March.

Bentley, a self-confessed fanatic for the sport, trains every day and loves his police work — training which may well have aided him escape detection for a practical joke on his first trip for Sale.

"We were playing Nottingham and Martin Whitcombe and I were staying in this hotel. The trouble was that this posh wedding cake ended up in Martin's kitbag." Subsequent investigations did not reveal a proven culprit. One popular theory, however, was that police constable Bentley was the prime suspect.

Fervour in spite of absentees

By George Ace

Malone and Bangor, two teams who look destined to figure in a play-off for section one of the Ulster Senior League, clash at Gibson Park this afternoon.

The fact that five regulars — McCoy, Morrow and Whittle, from Bangor, and McBride and McDonald, the Malone captain — will be missing owing to the Irish training in Dublin, as they prepare for the opening international against Scotland two weeks today, will detract little from the fervour generated.

They shared the points earlier in the season at Upritchard Park and then strode majestically to three impressive wins to head the table.

Bangor complete their programme with a home fixture next Saturday against Ballymena and an away game with Ards on January 23, a slightly more difficult finish than that of Malone, who have Collegians at home and CIYMS away on the same dates.

Injury to key players a headache for selectors

By Ian McLauchlan

The absence through injury of key players such as Rutherford, Wyllie and Robertson has caused the selectors at Murrayfield a headache as no obvious replacements have as yet shown themselves.

The international trial this afternoon is an open one with two of the front row, the locks, half backs and wings, all up for grabs. To that could be added the composition of the back row. Only in back row forwards, wings and full backs do Scotland have any cover should players be injured.

It is widely accepted that, barring a total disaster, Gavin Hastings, Duncan, Scott Hastings and Tait will fill full back, right wing and the centre positions in the team to face Ireland. It is a great pity that Dods cannot be fitted into the full back position as he is playing the best rugby of his career.

The stand-off position is the most problematic one. Cramb is in the senior side but that is by default. Last Saturday's injury to Robertson effectively left Cramb as the only uninjured outside half available to the selectors, who will no doubt be praying that Laidlaw remains fit to carry the partnership.

Among the forwards only Sole, the loose-head prop, can be sure of his place.

The perennial problem of locks again appears. White and Cronin lock the Blues scrum while Campbell and Gray are in opposition. The latter pair seem to be the more likely to win through as White is desperately short of match practice this season and Cronin always appears to be less than fully tuned.

The back row is a case of perm any three from nine. Finlay Calder will be certain to play in the opening international. Paxton, the Blues No. 8 today, will, I believe, be in the second row for Lansdowne Road and that would leave Turnbull, Marshall and Jeffrey for the two remaining positions.

After the trial 30 players will be asked to return to Murrayfield tomorrow morning for squad training.

TODAY'S TEAM NEWS

Wasps v Harlequins

Retains league status, although both clubs are weakened by trial calls. Ackford returns to Harlequins' pack and Williams makes his first league appearance, at flanker. Wasps have Simmons back after injury.

Waterloo v Sale

Sale, beaten five times in the first division, bring Bradshaw into the centre and play Gittings with Kenrick and Tipping in the back row. Fletcher, formerly of Orrell, replaces the injured Peters in the Waterloo front row.

Rosslyn P v B'heath

Park, second division leaders, are unchanged from the side who beat Liverpool-St Helens. Blackheath give league debuts to Burke (scrum half) and Simms (lock); Arris has recovered from a back injury at full back.

N'ampton v L Welsh

Northampton are short of the experienced Pearce and Cannon; Fox props and Newman is at lock while Blewitt returns to the back row. The Welsh have Gosiin, the RAF centre, back.

B'ham v Nuneaton

Defeat for Birmingham would virtually ensure their descent to area league north next season. They have lost all seven league games so far and the only team below them in the third division are Exeter, who have played five, lost five.

Bedford v Bristol

Bristol play David Thomas at full back and pair Knibbs with Hull at centre while Jeffrey replaces the absent Harding at scrum half. Upex deputizes in the Bedford second row for the absent Orwin.

Leics v Headingley

Leicester, buoyed up by victory over the Barbarians and the prospect of Hare extending his playing career by another season, bring Dadzie and Harris into the backs and Povoas and Marriott into the forwards.

Cardiff v Bath

Weakened Bath bring in a recent recruit from Ipswich, Hoskin, at centre and give Gilchrist another game at hooker. Seven regulars are involved in trials for England and Scotland. Cardiff have Scott back.

Coventry v Neath

Five regulars return to Coventry's side, Fairn, Hall and Lakey to the backs and Farrington and Travers to the pack, although Robbins is still unavailable because of a shoulder injury.

RACING

Dunwoody out of action for 21 days

By Michael Seely

Richard Dunwoody is out of action for three weeks with a trapped nerve in his neck. The injury was brought on when Chase The Line blundered at the first flight of hurdles in the last race at Cheltenham on Thursday.

"He's been given the statutory 21 days off," said David Nicholson, after Simon Sherwood had deputized successfully for the trainer's retained rider on Black Monkey in the Woodmancote Novices' Hurdle (Division One) at Cheltenham yesterday.

"Richard has had a niggling problem for the past six weeks," the trainer went on. "In fact, it may have been started last season." Dr Michael Allen, the Jockey Club's medical officer, is going to have a look at it in 10 days' time.

Black Monkey just got the better of Lord Torenaga in the opener after the 7-4 on favourite had found the concession of a 4lb penalty just beyond his powers. "This is a nice young horse," Nicholson continued. "We'll certainly bring him back here for the Sun Alliance Hurdle."

It was certainly an afternoon of exciting finishes, with the final steep climb at Prestbury Park playing its usual dramatic role. In the Steel Plate Trial Hurdle, the long-time leader, Wink Gulliver, was led four lengths at the last by Castle Ward on whom Ben de Haan looked home and dry.

But the redoubtable Ross Arnott never knows when he is beaten nowadays and, driving David Elsworth's four-year-old back into contention up the slope, the 26-year-old rider powered home by three parts of a length before dashing off to Devon and Exeter to partner Cinderella Derek in the 3.30.

The four-mile ASW Handicap Chase was an even more traumatic affair. After Deep South, the favourite, had weakened at the third fence from home, the race apparently became a three-cornered fight between Knock Hill, Masterplan and West Tip.

Jumping the second last, George Mernagh sent Knock Hill into the lead and the pair looked sure to win the stamina test for the third successive year. Memberson was trailing this trio by at least 15 lengths.

At the final obstacle Knock Hill was clear of West Tip as Masterplan fell. But Memberson's blood was now up with a vengeance and, storming up the hill, the 10-year-old not only made up an eight-length deficit, but won going away by six lengths.

"I never touched him with the whip," said Robert Bellamy, the triumphant winning rider, who celebrates his 21st birthday tomorrow. "It doesn't do any good."

Memberson will now be entered for the Grand National by Peter Dufosee, the 10-year-old's owner, breeder and trainer from Warminster. "I can just about afford it now," he said.

Kevin Mooney, out of luck on Lord Torenaga in the opener, gained handsome consolation when Private Views gave another spring-heeled exhibition of jumping to record his fourth consecutive victory in the Steel Plate and Sections Young Chasers' Qualifier.

Nick Gaselee, his trainer, now favours a tilt at the Cathcart rather than the Arkle. "They've changed the conditions, and he'll be well in at the weights," he explained.

Another high class performance was recorded by Mole Board, who sprinted home effortlessly by eight lengths in the second division of the novice hurdle.

Described by that noted horsemaster, Charles Radclyffe, as "the best natural jumper I've had since Tingle Creek", yesterday's winner is now to be trained for the Sun Alliance Hurdle by his local trainer, Owen O'Neill.

Carmody maintains fine form

From Our Irish Racing Correspondent, Dublin

Tommy Carmody, who rode five winners at Leopardstown over Christmas, had an easy task on Seeandem, the six-length winner of the Father Time USD Handicap Chase at Fairyhouse yesterday.

Seeandem was certainly entitled to win here on his fine fifth to Sound Judgement in an Ir£30,000 race at Leopardstown, where he raced off a mark 17lb unfavourable to him.

Mount Parson, rapidly developing into a Fairyhouse specialist, made virtually every yard of the running to win the 2¼-mile G. V. Malcomson Memorial Chase.

The only chance he gave the opposition was a mistake at the second last, which allowed Have A Barney to take a challenging position, but Mount Parson was soon in full flight again and went clear on the flat to score by six lengths.

"He was unlucky to be beaten by Orwell Times at Limerick on Boxing Day," trainer Peter McCreery said. "I will now bring him back to Fairyhouse for another valuable race, the Dawn Run Novices' Chase."

Odds layers suffered their first, but surely not their last, reverse of the year when Golden Czar was beaten by Mister Chatterbox in the First Crack Hurdle, despite the winner swerving all around the track.

A likely candidate for promotion today is Toby Tobias, who turns out at Naas in the Ir£10,000 Slaney Hurdle. He has excellent prospects on his 1½-length second to Master Swordsman at Leopardstown.

RACING: WINTER-TRAINED SIX-YEAR-OLD UNDERLINES CHELTENHAM CHANCE WITH EMPHATIC WINDSOR SUCCESS

Consistent Contradeal can make stamina tell

By Mandarin

Contradeal, five lengths second to Playschool in the Hennessy Gold Cup, can go one better over the same course and distance in the Bradstone Mandarin Handicap Chase at Newbury this afternoon.

Playschool, although subsequently beaten at Lingfield, resoundingly franked the form when returning to his best to win the Welsh National at Chepstow last Monday.

The value of Contradeal's Hennessy performance is further underlined by the fact that he was conceding 5lb to Playschool, and had Durham Edition and Kildimo, both winners of their previous races, behind in third and fourth.

On his seasonal debut, Contradeal turned in another good effort to beat Acarine by three-quarters of a length at Kempton, a track which may be rather sharp for such a dogged stayer, in October.

Last season, in another fine effort, he was second, beaten five lengths, to Lean Ar Aghaidh in the Whitbread Gold Cup at Sandown.

Today's race is likely to be decided by stamina rather than speed, and with the front-running Ascot winner Cavvies Clown and Gainsay in the field a true test looks assured.

However, this looks a stiffer task for Cavvies Clown, and he is penalized 5lb for that success into the bargain. Gainsay was well behind Cavvies Clown at Ascot — with the highly-regarded Chief Ironside a first-fence faller — and was also pulled up in the Hennessy.

Western Sunset easily beat a below-par Cybrandian in a Chepstow match last month but he has yet to win over this distance, while Spider's Well, seeking a four-timer, is 4lb out of the handicap despite a 5lb penalty.

Even with that reservation, though, Spider's Well may be the danger. He is in great fettle having won easily at Newton Abbot on Boxing Day, and, like Contradeal, staying is his forte.

Chasing The Dragon, who came up against the bang-in-form Jimmy Lorenzo at Kempton on Boxing Day, can gain compensation in the L'Oreal Handicap Hurdle. Although no match for the 10-length winner, he stayed on well to take second after having lost ground turning into the straight.

Jazetas, about a length behind Chasing The Dragon in fourth, re-opposes on the same terms after missing a Cheltenham engagement yesterday. He should be the greatest threat but his best efforts have generally been reserved for sharper courses.

However, for the nap I turn to Kodiak Island, who can initiate a double for Oliver and Simon Sherwood, also associated with Chasing The Dragon, in the Philip Cornes Novices' Hurdle (Qualifier).

After two encouraging runs over two miles — notably a creditable second to French Goblin at Towcester last month — he will be suited by this much longer trip, particularly in the light of his third in a point-to-point in Ireland.

Golden Fox put up a game effort to beat the consistent Blasket Run in a novices' handicap at Worcester last month but he was receiving 17lb there whereas now he must concede 8lb to Kodiak Island.

The Hungerford Handicap Chase is a tricky affair. I side with last year's winner Pommardy, a Worcester winner before finishing third to Lucky Rascal and Salehurst in what has proved an above-average Warwick contest.

Small fields are the order of the day at Ayr but the handicaps are still fraught with difficulties. It goes against the grain to select a horse which is out of the handicap but I make an exception in the case of Proud Con (2.15), who runs well over this course and distance and is unbeaten this season.

Sir Crusty, third to Vulgaris at Wolverhampton on Boxing Day, can make the long journey from Bristol pay in the Ayr New Year Handicap Hurdle, while Warwick Suite could be the answer to the Hurtford Novices' Handicap Chase.

Francis Lee completed a double at this meeting last year and can take the Hayhill Novices' Hurdle with Quessard, placed over middle distances on the Flat last year.



Contradeal, who returns to the scene of his excellent Hennessy Gold Cup second when coming under orders for today's Bradstone Mandarin Handicap Chase at Newbury

First jumps winner for Jarvis

Newmarket trainer Michael Jarvis, who has sent out 850 winners on the Flat, had his first success under National Hunt rules when he saddled Relekto to win the Humberstone Novices' Hurdle at Leicester yesterday.

Always in the leading group, Relekto swept to the front three out and ran on powerfully for Stuart Shilston to win by eight lengths from Not Arcadian.

"Relekto is the only jumper I have in my stable," Jarvis said. "He won on the Flat three years ago and this was his first race for 25 months."

Motivator, Terry Ramsden's 1986 Coral Golden Hurdle Final winner, made a successful debut over fences when getting up to beat Over The Road by a neck in the Ford Novices' Chase.

However, Graham McCourt, the winning jockey, was fined £100 by the stewards for using his whip with "excessive force and frequency".

Celtic Shot earns tilt at Champion

Celtic Shot became a live contender for the Champion Hurdle when he made a good field look distinctly ordinary in the Ra Nova New Year's Day Hurdle at Windsor yesterday.

Defending a three-race unbeaten record this season, the Fred Winter-trained six-year-old earned an 8-1 quote from Ladbrokes for Cheltenham after his six-length success.

Peter Scudamore tucked Celtic Shot in the rear as Tom Sharp and High Knowl set a cracking pace and he came through effortlessly to lead after the last flight. Beech Road, returning to his best form, got up in the last 50 yards to deprive Jimmy Lorenzo of second place by a length.

Among several good horses in arrears were Southernair, who had beaten the impressive Kempton winner, Osric, on his previous start at Footwell, and the highly-rated Boxing Day winner Biloxi Blues.

Joanna Winter, the trainer's daughter, said: "We knew Celtic Shot had the class and he proved it today. Peter was always happy and we definitely go to Cheltenham."

Barney Curley's first runner of 1988, Samanpour, started 9-4 favourite for the Touchen End Handicap Hurdle but could finish only fourth behind Celtic Bob, ably ridden by the highly-regarded Ian Shoemark, who was landing his fifth win since Boxing Day.

However, the day's honours went to evergreen sire Celtic Cone, who sired three winners at the meeting — Celtic Shot, Celair and Celtic Bob.

● After teaming up to win the seller at Windsor with Matelot Royale, Caterham trainer Albert Davison and jockey Dean Gallagher sped off to Leicester where they completed a 30½-1 double with Prince Klenk in the Glebe Handicap Hurdle.

NEWBURY

Selections
By Mandarin

12.30 Observer Corps.
1.00 KODIAK ISLAND (nap).
1.30 Contradeal.
2.00 Chasing The Dragon.
2.30 Pommardy.
3.00 Winter Haven.

Michael Seely's selection: 1.30 Contradeal.
The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 1.00 KODIAK ISLAND (nap).

Going: soft

12.30 WANTAGE NOVICES CHASE (£1,895: 2m 160yd) (4 runners)

101	600-311	OBSERVER CORPS 37 (F,S) (G Clay) Mrs W Sykes 7-11-5	H Davies	●	99
104	3141-00	BAIES 36 (S) (Mrs B Samuel) F Winter 6-11-0	P Scudamore		—
106	03F-00F	HALF BROTHER 7 (S) (T Ramsden) Mrs J Pitman 6-11-0	G McCourt		—
107	1203-F3	LODDON LAD 15 (S) (Mrs J Mould) D Nicholson 6-11-0	S Sherwood		82

BETTING: 4-5 Observer Corps, 3-1 Loddon Lad, 7-2 Baies, 5-1 Half Brother.
1987: FIRST BOUT 6-11-0 S Smith Eccles (7-4 fav) N Henderson 9 ran

FORM OBSERVER CORPS (11-0) not troubled to beat Molojec (11-0) 2l on chasing debut in fast-run Ludlow race (2m 4f, £1946, soft, Nov 26, 13 ran).
BAIES (11-1) 18½l 9th to Beech Road (11-1) in handicap hurdle here (2m 4f 126yd, £3720, good, Nov 27, 15 ran). Makes chasing debut.
HALF BROTHER has fallen on both previous starts over fences; on most recent (11-8) was in contention when falling at 5th last at Huntingdon (2m 4f, £1364, good to soft, Dec 26, 13 ran) in race won by Farmlea Boy (11-3).
LODDON LAD (11-0) made steady late progress when 14l 3rd to Ramblehy Song (11-2) at Lingfield (2m 4f, £2064, heavy, Dec 18, 11 ran).
Selection: OBSERVER CORPS

1.0 PHILIP CORNES NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: £4,086: 3m 120yd) (22 runners) BBC 1

202	P-20013	FIRE REFINED 11 (S) (P Bonner) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-8	M Pitman		82
203	4/20-231	GOLDEN FOX 26 (S) (W.Wade) G Enright 5-11-8	R Rowe		88
205	0040/5-	AL'S SON 240 (R Warwick) K Ivory 7-11-0	C Brown		—
209	09	BOLD GRENADIER 35 (R Merryweather) B Smart 7-11-0	B de Haan		—
210	003-0P0	BROAD WOOD 28 (P Axon) R Hodges 6-11-0	W Irvine		76
211	300/43-0	BRUNI BABY 58 (P Kearney) J Sayers 7-11-0	H Davies		92
213	0	COOL DISTINCTION 36 (J Huckle) C Tristine 5-11-0	J D Doyle		—
214	02/P660	DEMOCRATIC BOY 19 (Miss E Knight) J King 6-11-0	S McNeill		85
215	0PP/0-	DREAMY BLUE 257 (A Gadd) A Gadd 11-11-0	B Wright		—
217	0000-00	GLIDE ON 14 (Mrs A Trowbridge) Mrs S Oliver 6-11-0	R Hyett		77
218	000-000	HANDBAWN 21 (Mrs H Bare) M McCourt 6-11-0	G McCourt		69
220	330	KAMADOOR 21 (D Harvie) G Balding 5-11-0	R Guest		91
221	P-P	KING'S KESTREL 5 (R Karslake) M Pipe 5-11-0	P Scudamore		—
222	0-02	KODIAK ISLAND 12 (BF) (Mrs C Heath) O Sherwood 5-11-0	S Sherwood	●	99
223	0U-40	MONKS IMAGE 19 (E Reiss) R Akehurst 5-11-0	Dale McKeown		82
226	2023	PYLEIGH COURT 29 (BF) (Mrs M Bradley) B Smart 6-11-0	—		86
227	0-00000	RAVELSTON 25 (Mrs M Bowden) J Honeyball 5-11-0	NON-RUNNER		—
229	U0-344	SAINT FRED 31 (E Kirwan) S Christian 6-11-0	B Beggan		89
230	P0P	SAMBRIDGE 15 (P Dulcease) P Dulcease 6-11-0	Mr G Maundrell		—
231	PP00P	STEVE'S BOY 11 (M Rogers) R Curtis 5-11-0	R Goldstein		—
234	0-0	CLOVER SONG 7 (P Townsley) Mrs P Townsley 5-10-9	Mr P Townsley		—
235	002FP-P	GOLDEN JUNE 7 (P Tennant) D C Tucker 6-10-9	—		85

BETTING: 2-1 Kodiak Island, 9-2 Kamadoor, 5-1 Golden Fox, 7-1 Pyleigh Court, 8-1 Fire Refined, 10-1 Bruni Baby, 14-1 Monks Image, 16-1 others.
1987: CITY ENTERTAINER 5-11-8 M Dwyer (7-4 fav) Mrs C Postlethwaite 20 ran

FORM FIRE REFINED (11-4) 3l winner from Sagart Aroon (11-8) at Nottingham on penultimate start (2m 5f, £857, soft, Dec 5, 15 ran) with DEMOCRATIC BOY (10-8) 8¾l 5th and BROAD WOOD (11-0) unplaced.
GOLDEN FOX (10-7) beat Blasket Run (11-10) 2l at Worcester (2m 4f, £1139, good, Dec 7, 24 ran) with RAVELSTON (10-4) unplaced.
BRUNI BABY (10-0) showed best form last season when 9l 3rd to Staghound (10-4) at Sandown (2m, £2767, good to soft, Nov 28, 9 ran).
KODIAK ISLAND (10-11) 2l 2nd to French Goblin (10-11) at Towcester last time (2m, £806, soft, Dec 21, 18 ran). From a stable in form.
PYLEIGH COURT beaten favourite last time when 8½l 3rd to Christo at Southwell; previously (10-10) 1½l 2nd to Crumpet Delite (10-10) at Wolverhampton (2m 6f 110yd, £1088, good, Nov 15, 15 ran) with GOLDEN FOX (10-10) 10l 3rd.
SAINT FRED (11-9) 19l 4th to Arctic Cavalier (11-5) at Hereford (2m 3f, £769, soft, Dec 2, 17 ran) with STEVE'S BOY (10-4) 7th.
Selection: PYLEIGH COURT

1.30 BRADSTONE MANDARIN HANDICAP CHASE (Listed race: £5,873: 3m 2f 82yd) (7 runners) BBC 1

302	122-341	WESTERN SUNSET 28 (C,G,S) (S Sainsbury) T Forster 12-11-10	N Davies		92
303	3P32-12	CONTRADEAL 35 (G,S) (V Barclay) F Walwyn 11-11-10	K Mooney		94
305	10-0P20	GAINSAY 14 (B,C,G,S) (E Brown) Mrs J Pitman 9-11-4	B de Haan		94
306	1F2-491	CAVVIES CLOWN 14 (G,S) (Mrs J Ollivant) D Elsworth 8-11-3 (Sex)	R Arnott		97
307	1P/310-F	CHIEF IRONSIDE 14 (G) (H J Joel) J Gifford 8-10-5	R Rowe	●	99
308	002-111	SPIDER'S WELL 7 (F,G,S) (A Taylor) D Barons 11-10-0 (Sex)	P Nicholls		86
309	PUP-313	MOE GREENE 35 (F,G,S) (Mrs D Gait) Mrs M Rimell 8-10-0	L Wyer		81

BETTING: 11-4 Contradeal, 7-2 Cavvies Clown, Western Sunset, 5-1 Spiders Well, 7-1 Gainsay, 8-1 Chief Ironside, 16-1 Moe Greene.
1987: MAORI VENTURE 11-11-3 Steve Knight (4-1) A Turnell 6 ran

FORM WESTERN SUNSET (11-4) comfortably beat sole opponent Cybrandian (11-4) 7l at Chepstow (3m, £5210, soft, Dec 5).
CONTRADEAL (10-12) 5l 2nd to Playschool (10-8) here (3m 2f 82yd, £29498, good, Nov 28, 12, ran) with GAINSAY (10-13) pulled up.
CAVVIES CLOWN (10-11) ran on well to beat Gold Bearer (10-5) 8l at Ascot (2m, £14984, good to soft, Dec 19, 12 ran) with GAINSAY (11-3) 9th and CHIEF IRONSIDE (10-4) a first-fence faller.
GAINSAY (11-2) 5l 2nd to Rhyme 'N' Reason (10-1) at Lingfield (3m, £10470, good to soft, Dec 12, 6 ran).
SPIDERS WELL (10-5) not extended to beat Easter Carnival (10-3) 2l at Newton Abbot (3m 2f 100yd, £2127, soft, Dec 26, 7 ran).
MOE GREENE (10-5) 81½l 3rd to Thinking Cap (10-5) at Navan (3m, £5520, soft to yielding, Nov 28, 10 ran).
Selection: CONTRADEAL

Guide to our in-line racecard

103 0-0432 TIMESFORM 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 ..... B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F-fell. P-pulled up. U-unseated rider. B-brought down. S-slipped up. R-refused). Horse's name. Days since last outing. (B-blinkers. V-visor. H-hood. E-Eyeshield. C-course winner. D-distance winner. CD-course and distance winner. BF-beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F-firm, good to firm, hard. G-good. S-soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

2.0 L'OREAL HANDICAP HURDLE (£4,978: 2m 100yd) (8 runners) BBC 1

407	10-1103	MAN O'MAGIC 15 (B,F,G,S) (J Greig) K Bailey 7-11-10	P Croucher		96
410	123/400-	BRUNICO 280 (G,S) (T Ramsden) R Simpson 6-11-9	G McCourt		85
411	21-012	CHASING THE DRAGON 7 (B,S) (Skeltools Ltd) O Sherwood 6-11-7	S Sherwood	●	99
412	2-00144	JAZETAS 7 (S) (G Cooke) N Callaghan 5-11-5	D Murphy		98
414	12-2300	DETROIT SAM 21 (F) (Miss A Whitfield) M Francis 7-11-1	S McNeill		97
415	20-0F34	TIVIAN 7 (D,G,S) (Lady Matthews) I Matthews 8-11-0	P Scudamore		92
418	2-00480	ARBITRAGE 7 (S) (D Bay) B Forsey 7-10-8	—		97
417	43-0000	PROBLEM CHILD 7 (B,CD,G) (Amity Finance Ltd) R Akehurst 5-10-8	Dale McKeown		98

BETTING: 7-4 Chasing The Dragon, 7-2 Jazetas, 4-1 Man O'Magic, 7-1 Arbitrage, 8-1 Brunico, 10-1 Tivian, 12-1 Detroit Sam, 16-1 Problem Child.
1987: JUVEN LIGHT 6-10-9 S Smith Eccles (2-1 fav) R Akehurst 10 ran

FORM MAN O'MAGIC (11-12) ½l winner from Rainbow Lady (10-10) at Wincanton (2m, £1730, soft, Nov 12, 10 ran).
CHASING THE DRAGON (10-13) 10l 2nd to Jimmy Lorenzo (11-7) at Kempton (2m, £3335, good, Dec 26, 16 ran) with JAZETAS (10-11) ¾l 4th, ARBITRAGE (10-2) 2½l 5th and PROBLEM CHILD (10-1) behind.
DETROIT SAM (10-12) last of 8 to Pat's Jester (11-2) at Cheltenham last time (2m, £9884, good, Dec 12).
BRUNICO (10-5) 1¾l at Chepstow (2m 4f, £2465, soft, Dec 28, 15 ran).
POMMARDY (10-3) 14½l 3rd to Lucky Rascal (12-0) at Warwick (2m 4f, £2822, good, Dec 3, 12 ran).
FARMLEA BOY (10-13) beat Hallo Matey (10-0) 2l at Huntingdon (2m 4f, £1649, good to soft, Dec 26, 13 ran).
GREENORE PRIDE (10-9) stayed on well to beat Swift Retort (10-2) 7l at Towcester (2m 50yd, £1435, soft, Dec 21, 7 ran).
Selection: GREENORE PRIDE

2.30 HUNGERFORD HANDICAP CHASE (£3,106: 2m 4f) (9 runners) BBC 1

501	203D1/1-	YACARE 435 (CD,F,G,S) (P Hopkins) J Gifford 8-12-0	R Rowe		85
502	212-221	PUKKA MAJOR 7 (F,S) (Mrs S Jones) O Sherwood 7-11-12 (7ex)	Mr T Thomson Jones		88
503	42-3220	COUGHLANS RUN 14 (BF,F,S) (S Sainsbury) T Forster 9-11-8	H Davies		96
505	1011/12	ENERGISE 9 (F,G,S) (R Turvey) C Popham 10-10-13	K Mooney		93
506	1-00041	FLAREY SARK 5 (D,S) (Mrs A Pollard) J King 11-10-13 (7ex)	—		95
507	401-013	POMMARDY 30 (CD,F,S) (Mrs J Chadwick) Mrs J Chadwick 9-10-11	M Bosley		91
509	0011	FARMLEA BOY 7 (D,S) (R Lavelle) G Balding 8-10-1 (7ex)	R Guest		96
510	41-2133	WOODLAND VIEW 58 (D,F,S) (Mrs D Hankinson) P J Jones 9-10-0	M Kinane		83
511	422-011	GREENORE PRIDE 12 (G,S) (A Baird Ltd) P Burgoyne 11-10-0	A Charlton (7)	●	99

● Pukka Major runs at Worcester (1.15)

BETTING: 3-1 Farmlea Boy, 4-1 Coughlans Run, 5-1 Energise, 6-1 Greenore Pride, Flarey Sark, 7-1 Pommardy, 10-1 Woodland View, Yacare.
1987: POMMARDY 8-10-3 M Bosley (5-1) Mrs J Chadwick 7 ran

FORM YACARE (11-5) beat Play Boy (11-5) a length here (2m 4f, £3798, good, Oct 1986, 9 ran).
PUKKA MAJOR (10-10) pushed out to beat Vaguely Artistic (10-0) 2½l at Huntingdon (2m 200yd, £1722, good to soft, Dec 26, 4 ran).
COUGHLAN'S RUN (11-13) 1½l 2nd to Wiggburn (11-11) at Ludlow (2m 4f, £2275, soft, Nov 25, 9 ran).
ENERGISE (12-0) 3l 2nd to Rusty Roc (10-5) at Taunton (2m 150yd, £1989, soft, Dec 30, 9 ran).
FLAREY SARK (10-13) got up close home to beat Bryme (10-5) 1½l at Chepstow (2m 4f, £2465, soft, Dec 28, 15 ran).
POMMARDY (10-3) 14½l 3rd to Lucky Rascal (12-0) at Warwick (2m 4f, £2822, good, Dec 3, 12 ran).
FARMLEA BOY (10-13) beat Hallo Matey (10-0) 2l at Huntingdon (2m 4f, £1649, good to soft, Dec 26, 13 ran).
GREENORE PRIDE (10-9) stayed on well to beat Swift Retort (10-2) 7l at Towcester (2m 50yd, £1435, soft, Dec 21, 7 ran).
Selection: GREENORE PRIDE

3.0 RAMSBURY HURDLE (5-Y-O: £3,293: 2m 4f 120yd) (7 runners)

603	0-30	GOLD SHAFT 66 (Mrs A Sturt) J Gifford 10-12	R Rowe		76
605	2018	HIGH RANGE 12 (S) (R Coombe) Pat Mitchell 10-12	S Sherwood		78
606	22-2F10	HOPE DIAMOND 14 (S) (C G A Horseracing 1986 Ltd) N Gaselee 10-12	P Scudamore		82
612	0-00000	RAVELSTON 26 (Mrs M Bowden) J Honeyball 10-12	NON-RUNNER		—
615	1211	TEBITTO 55 (F,S) (L Ames) A Turnell 10-12	S McNeill		91
618	034-114	WINTER HAVEN 29 (G) (J Davis) J Baker 10-12	M Williams		87
619	0111	RELATIVELY EASY 7 (S) (A Macdonald-Buchanan) D Nicholson 10-7	W Humphreys (7)	●	99

BETTING: 6-4 Relatively Easy, 11-4 Tebitto, 6-1 Winter Haven, 8-1 Hope Diamond, 20-1 Gold Shaft, High Range.
1987: HARRY'S BAR 10-12 P Scudamore (7-2) F Winter 7 ran

FORM HIGH RANGE won NH Flat race at Tipperary; last time (10-11) 8½l 5th to French Goblin (10-11) in Towcester novices' hurdle (2m, £806, soft, Dec 21, 18 ran).
HOPE DIAMOND (10-10) odds-on when 5l Leicester novices' winner from Sapperton (10-10) on penultimate start (2m, £819, heavy, Oct 4, 17 ran).
TEBITTO (11-8) driven out to beat Mad Jimmy (11-0) ½l at Chepstow last time (2m, £1314, good to soft, Nov 7, 18 ran).
WINTER HAVEN (11-0) staying-on 11¼l 4th to Slalom (11-6) in grade II Sandown hurdle (2m 5l 75yd, £4954, good, Dec 4, 9 ran).
RELATIVELY EASY (11-8) beat Crissy Wall (11-0) 4l at Wincanton (2m, £806, good to soft, Dec 26, 15 ran).
Selection: RELATIVELY EASY

Course specialists

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per cent
R Akehurst	4	15	26.7
M Pipe	4	15	26.7
T Forster	15	66	24.2
Mrs M Rimell	8	38	21.1
Mrs J Pitman	5	29	17.2
O Sherwood	8	48	16.7

JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per cent
P Nicholls	3	7	42.9
Dale McKeown	3	8	37.5
S Sherwood	15	71	21.1
M Pitman	3	15	20.0
P Scudamore	20	121	16.5
H Davies	15	94	16.0

2.15 McALPINE CHALLENGE CUP (Handicap Chase: £2,858: 2m 4f) (4 runners)

2	622-439	ALLTEN GLAZED 5 (C,G,S) (Mrs W Widdall) M Naughton 11-11-10	C Grant	●	99
4	1F/061-1	JOHNS PRESENT 28 (S) (P Darling) R Holder 10-11-3	P Richards		96
5	4134-11	PROUD CON 15 (CD,G,S) (H Proud) J Charlton 9-10-0 (4ex)	B Storey		96
6	0PP-211	ALLENROID 7 (D,G,S) (T McCreery) M McCausland (Ire) 9-10-0	L Flynn (7)		80

BETTING: 6-4 Proud Con, 5-2 Allenroid, 3-1 Johns Present, 5-1 Allten Glazed.
1987: DARK IVY 11-11-7 P Tuck (9-4) G Richards 4 ran

2.45 BARLEITH NOVICES CHASE (£1,753: 3m 110yd) (3 runners)

1	331U11	RINUS 7 (F,S) (A Proos) G Richards 7-12-3	P Tuck	●	99
6	UPF0-PP	JAY DOUBLE YOU 26 (V) (P Youngson) J S Wilson 7-11-5	M Bosley		—
7	04P0F/0-	NELSONS BEACH 802 (J Dun) G Dun 10-11-5	D Nolan		76

BETTING: 1-8 Rinus, 6-1 Nelsons Beach, 14-1 Jay Double You.
1987: JENNIE PAT 7-11-6 P Tuck (6-5) G Richards 6 ran

3.15 COYLTON NOVICES HURDLE (£1,345: 2m 4f) (12 runners)

1	11	ASTON EXPRESS 15 (D,G,S) (J Featherstone) G Moore 5-11-7	M Hammond		98
7	00	ADEN ROYALE 26 (J Sim) T Craig 5-10-9	B Hay (7)		—
8	00	CANTA-LAD 42 (Mrs H Wells) P Daly 5-10-8	P Tuck		—
9	0/0P0F-0	DEVON DISCOVERY 12 (Mrs W Crawford) W Crawford 6-10-9	—		—
12	004	PALS GALORE 15 (J Singleton) D McCain 6-10-9	N Doughty		89
14	0	SOME MUG 29 (D Hodgson) T Donnelly 7-10-9	C Grant		83
15	0/F0P-00	SOUDTH BRIG 15 (D Robertson) D Robertson 9-10-9	D Nolan		—
17	2-0	STROMAR 43 (E Kennedy) J S Wilson 6-10-9	M Bosley		78
18	0P	THE BUNCO MAN 15 (D McGarva) D McGarva 5-10-9	D Condell		—
19	02	ARCTIC RYMES 15 (Miss J Eaton) Miss J Eaton 5-10-4	G Lyons (7)	●	99
20	P0-0P	FIRE STAR 15 (T Goldie) T Goldie 8-10-4	G Harker		—
25	020-400	PRICELESS PERIL 85 (A Green) Miss M Bell 5-10-4	B Storey		78

BETTING: 7-4 Aston Express, 100-30 Arctic Rymes, 4-1 Pals Galore, 8-1 Stromar, 12-1 Devon Discovery, 15-1 others.
1987: HASSLE MONEY 5-11-1 M Meagher (5-2) R Fisher 6 ran

Course specialists

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per cent
G Moore	7	18	38.9
F Lee	4	11	36.4
W Crawford	3	12	25.0
G Richards	33	146	22.6
M H Easterby	10	50	20.0
J Charlton	8	47	17.0

JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per cent
P Tuck	25	82	30.5
M Hammond	12	43	28.8
N Doughty	17	77	22.1
C Grant	16	131	12.2
B Storey	6	64	9.4
D Nolan	4	47	8.5

AYR

Selections
By Mandarin

12.45 Quessard.
1.15 Warwick Suite.
1.45 Sir Crusty.
2.15 Proud Con.
2.45 Rinus.
3.15 Aston Express.

Michael Seely's selection: 3.15 ASTON EXPRESS (nap).

Going: heavy

12.45 HAYHILL NOVICES HURDLE (4-Y-O: £955: 2m 4f) (7 runners)

2	2000	ENTIRE 4 (LI-Col W Monteith) P Monteith 10-9	D Nolan		84
4		QUESSARD (F Lee) F Lee 10-9	C Hawkins		—
5	00	TREBONKERS 28 (Mrs C Richard) T Craig 10-9	P Tuck		82
6	04030	YOUNG WARRIOR 28 (C Hall) Miss M Bell 10-9	B Storey		84
7		LYN RAE (Mrs P Mullen) A Jones 10-4	S Woods (4)		—
8	04	STAR OF KINLOCH 39 (Mrs M Steward) G Moore 10-4	M Hammond	●	89
9	P	SUPER GAMBLER 43 (S) (N B Mason Ltd) Mrs N Macauley 10-4	—		—

BETTING: 9-4 Star Of Kinloch, 3-1 Quessard, 4-1 Lyn Rae, 11-2 Entire, 12-1 Young Warrior, 14-1 others.
1987: TAPTEM TWICE 4-10-9 S Holland (7-4 jt-fav) F Lee 6 ran

1.15 HURLFORD NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£1,586: 2m) (5 runners)

1	164-F0F	ATKINSONS 7 (F,S) (Mrs T Metcalfe) G Richards 7-12-2	P Tuck		—
3	000200	WARWICK SUITE 5 (V,G,S) (P Davies) M Naughton 6-10-10	A Orkney		—
7	30-0FFF	BROWNHILL LASS 42 (A Paton) R Goldie 7-10-0	B Storey		—
8	001/F-P3	RHYMAROUND 14 (S) (J Singleton) D McCain 7-10-0	K Doolan		99
9	0600OF	WAYSIDE 14 (J Charlton) J Charlton 6-10-0	C Dennis (7)	●	99

BETTING: 13-8 Rhymaround, 5-2 Atkinsons, 7-2 Warwick Suite, 12-1 Wayside, Brownhill Lass.
1987: HY TAP 10-10-11 M Walsh (9-2) W Wells 6 ran

1.45 NEW YEAR HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,033: 2m) (5 runners)

1	2U0F-32	FREDCOTERI 35 (S,S) (T Murphy) G Moore 12-11-10	M Hammond		96
7	13-4116	BEAKER 15 (V,CD,S) (G Lowe) M Naughton 8-10-7	P Murphy	●	99
10	210/62-3	SIR CRUSTY 7 (D,F,G) (M Ash) R Holder 5-10-5	P Murphy	●	99
11	14	QUICK DANCER 65 (D,BF,G) (J S Wilson) J S Wilson 5-10-0	M Bosley		92
12	00004-P	WAVE GOODBYE 15 (D,S) (J Hickle) J S Wilson 5-10-0	G Lyons (7)		92

BETTING: 15-8 Sir Crusty, 9-4 Fredcoteri, 4-1 Quick Dancer, 8-1 Beaker, 12-1 Wave Goodbye.
1987: STRING PLAYER 5-11-1 S Holland (11-10 fav) F Lee 4 ran

Results from yesterday's five meetings

Cheltenham

Going: good to soft

12.10 (2m 4f hdle) 1, BLACK MONKEY (S Sherwood, 6-1); 2, Lord Torenage (K Mooney, 4-7 fav); 3, Vulgan Warrior (L Wyer, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 7 Strong Gold (6th), 14 First Sea Lord, 16 Fred The Tread (5th), 25 Dromackally Lad, 33 Allerton (pu), Phabes Folly, 50 Belinda Vard (4th), 100 Kokoschka, Philclass. 12 ran. NR: Abbey Brave, ¾l, 2l, 12l, nk, nk. D Nicholson at Stow-On-The-Wold. Tote: £5.40; £1.50, £1.10, £1.70. DF: £3.40. CSF: £9.66.

12.45 (2m hdle) 1, WINK GULLIVER (R Arnott, 9-2); 2, Castle Ward (B de Haan, 11-2); 3, Baga (Miss S Lawrance, 33-1). ALSO RAN: 9-4 fav Young Snugfit (l), 4 Bel Creation (4th), 5 Operatic Score (5th), 20 Khatibi (pu), 33 Galaice Glen (pu). 8 ran. ¾l, 8l, ¾l, 1½l. D Elsworth at Whitsbury. Tote: £4.00: £1.50, £1.90, £5.40. DF: £18.50. CSF: £28.10.

1.20 (2m ch) 1, PRIVATE VIEWS (K Mooney, 4-7 fav); 2, Springholm (R Beggan, 15-8); 3, William Creasp (S Sherwood, 9-1). 3 ran. 4l, dist. N Gaselee at Upper Lambourn. Tote: £1.80. DF: £1.50. CSF £1.89.

1.55 (4m ch) 1, MEMBERSON (Mr R Bellamy, 14-1); 2, Knock Hill (G Mernagh, 2-1 fav); 3, West Tip (R Rowe, 6-1). ALSO RAN: 5-2 Deep South (4th), 12-2 Masterplan (f), 9 Plundering (5th), 33 Marcolo (pu). 7 ran. 8l, 4l, dist, 4l. P Dulcease at Warminster. Tote: £26.70; £7.50, £1.80. DF: £222.80. CSF: £36.80.

2.30 (2m hdle) 1, MENINGI (S Earle, 15-2); 2, Jabaleau (R Beggan, 9-1); 3, Taste (Mrs T Nicholls, 8-1). ALSO RAN: 3 fav Cool Strike (4th), 6 Robin Wonder (6th), 7 Skygrange (5th), 9 Smith's Gamble, Times Lad, 25 Soler Cloud. 9 ran. NR: Lintast, Jazazas. 4l, 2l, 10l, 12l, 3l. K Bishop at Bridgwater. Tote: £8.50; £2.50, £2.80, £2.20. DF: £78.40. CSF: £55.72. Tricast: £408.58.

3.5 (3m 1f ch) 1, RIG STEEL (A Adams, 3-1 fav); 2, Bright Dream (T Pinfield, 7-2); 3, Mount Oliver (S Cowley, 15-2). ALSO RAN: 100-30 My Major, 8 Gratification (6th), 10 Coney Glen (4th), 33 Furzen Hill (5th), Lisboney Hill (f). 8 ran. 4l, 20l, 30l, 8l, 20l. P Cundell at Compton. Tote: £3.40; £1.80, £1.60, £1.80, £1.30. DF: £5.80. CSF: £12.27. Tricast: £53.59

3.40 (2m 4f hdle) 1, MOLE BOARD (S Cowley, 2-1 fav); 2, Steeple View (S Sherwood, 9-4); 3, Royal Gossip (L Harvey, 100-30). ALSO RAN: 11-2 Roxy Prospect (6th), 12 Docklands Express (4th), 25 Pipers Copse (5th), 33 Primulo Please, 66 Dunarunna, Merenias,

FOOTBALL: BOTTOM-OF-THE-TABLE WATFORD STRUGGLE, ON AND OFF THE PITCH AT TOTTENHAM, WHILE EVERTON'S TITLE DEFENCE WANES AT WEDNESDAY

Bassett's resolve is ruined by dismissal of physiotherapist

By Clive White

Tottenham Hotspur 2
Watford 1

Any hopes that Dave Bassett, the manager of Watford, had of making a fresh start to the new year, died an earlier death than most people's resolutions at White Hart Lane yesterday morning as his defence gave away two goals and his physiotherapist succeeded in getting himself sent off.

But one man's loss is another man's gain and Terry Venables, the Tottenham manager, will be grateful for a further boost to his team's confidence and League position, with their third win in four games.

It was, as Venables remarked, a drab day and the match was in danger of following suit until enlivened by two goals in a minute followed by a match-winner that will live forever in the memory of Moran, the teenager who did more than most to enliven the proceedings with his pace and exuberance.

But unfortunately, the attention was snatched from him with just nine minutes of the match remaining when Derek French, the Watford physiotherapist, was alleged to have sworn at a linesman while in the process of substituting Hodges, and so he was shown the red card by David Axcell, the Southend referee who seems to be specializing in extraordinary dismissals at White Hart Lane: last season, Axcell sent off Roberts as he was stretchered off against Wimbledon.

It was as well for Watford that they suffered no serious injuries in the last few minutes of yesterday's game given the absence of their physiotherapist, although Bassett may have felt like inflicting some damage in the dressing room afterwards.

After the substitution, Bassett hauled Hodges down the tunnel by his shirt for fear that the player — already booked and spoken to for dissent moments earlier — was the object of the linesman's displeasure.

The game, a gentle baptism for Fenwick, the new Tottenham signing, had been almost without incident when Waddle, now back on song — to the misery of defenders everywhere — swung over a cross in the 64th minute and Rees, playing only his second game in goal for Watford, dropped the ball obligingly on to the head of Clive Allen, who could not fail to miss the target.

The goal was like a slap in the face to Watford, who hit back immediately when, following a corner, Morris stabbed home the ball after Hodge had cleared Senior's header off the line.

But Morris and his centre back partner, McClelland, were at fault in the 74th minute when they allowed the speedy Moran, who had already struck a post, to be first to another Waddle centre and he headed home, leaving Rees an embarrassed onlooker.

But despite Rees's obvious error for the first goal, Bassett said he had no intention of bringing back Coton, whom he said he had dropped because of possible complacency in recent performances.

"We need a little infusion of confidence. We're a bit apprehensive. It is noticeable that we never come from behind to win matches. I wasn't disappointed with the all-round performance today but we've got to start getting results if we're going to have any hope of surviving."

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR: A Parks; T Fenwick, M Thomas, S Hodge, C Fairclough, G Mabbutt, C Allen, P Allen, C Waddle, O Ardiles, P Moran (sub: D Howells).

WATFORD: M Rees; G Chivers, W Rostron, K Jackett, M Morris, J McClelland, G Hodges, A Agana, T Senior, G Porter, W Sterling.
Referee: D Axcell.



High riser: Clive Allen heads Tottenham's first goal past Rees (left) and McClelland (Photograph: Hugh Routledge)

Everton's hopes dented by Proctor

By a Special Correspondent

Sheffield Wednesday ... 1
Everton 0

A first defeat at the hands of Sheffield Wednesday in 22 years meant Everton's hopes of retaining their League title slipped even further at Hillsborough. But the jubilant home supporters in the crowd of 26,433 celebrated the new year in style after seeing their team collect their ninth point from three holiday games.

It was dramatic dress rehearsal for the FA Cup third-round clash between these sides on the same ground next Saturday, when Everton will be seeking quick revenge. Wednesday are a fast improving side, recovering from a dismal start to the season, but they still lacked the class and flair of the Merseysiders.

Everton dictated the pattern of play almost from the kick-off, whereas Wednesday deserved praise for a dogged defensive line-up strengthened by the introduction of May in place of the midfield player, Owen, who was in hospital with a kidney infection.

Wednesday's all-important goal came in the 33rd minute when the captain, Sterland, broke on the right to send a superb cross to the far post. Proctor's header beat the diving Southall for his second goal of the season.

It was the first real chance for either side and it served to reinforce Everton's attempt to restore their 22-year record. But there was an element of frustration in the visitors' display which resulted in bookings for Reid and Sharp.

There were openings for both sides in the second half with Reid making an early clearance out of his goalmouth from a header by Chapman, who had generally been starved out of the game by Watson.

Then, at the other end, Pearson had to clear desperately for a corner when Pointon had the Wednesday goal at his mercy.

The Everton substitute, Clarke, had an unchallenged header from a free kick, but Hodge came to Wednesday's rescue with a confident save.

The visitors believed they should have had a late penalty when a cross by Wilson seemed to be handled, but the referee, George Tyson, who had an excellent game, waved the appeal aside.

In the final seconds Hodge was drawn wide off his goal, but May stepped into the breach with a clearance which sent Everton away empty-handed for the first time since August 1965.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY: M Hodge; M Sterland, N Worthington, L Madden, N Pearson, M Proctor, B Marwood (sub: M Chamberlain), G Megson (sub: C Bradshaw), L Chapman, C West, L May.
EVERTON: N Southall; G Stevens, N Pointon, K Ratcliffe, D Reid, T Steven; A Heath (sub: W Clarke), G Sharp, I Snodin, I Wilson.
Referee: G Tyson

Bottled tonic only boost for Hollins

By Nicholas Harling

Luton Town 3
Chelsea 0

Given that yesterday's defeat at Kenilworth Road was Chelsea's ninth League game without a win and their second successive 3-0 away reverse, it was no surprise when John Hollins, the manager, called for a "real strong tonic." The way his team had played, however, Hollins could have been forgiven for acquiring far more powerful sustenance. "No excuses," he said, "although it is always a difficult game at Luton."

Chelsea had contributed to their own downfall by getting caught 16 times in Luton's efficient offside trap and by handing the home team a thirteenth-minute lead with a goal Hollins had every right to describe as "sloppy."

Clive Wilson was the culprit after a Luton throw-in had fallen to him in enough space to do something far more constructive than play the ball casually back to Freestone. On the greasy, artificial surface, where every ball seems to skid far further than intended or do just the reverse, his pass fell drastically short. It left Mark Stein with the honour of scoring Luton's first goal of 1988, after which they could do little wrong.

The small visiting contingent of supporters, who had infiltrated the security of Luton's members-only scheme, presumably with the help of tickets distributed by the Chelsea chairman, Ken Bates, were given precious little encouragement by the sluggishness of their side.

For the second season running, Bates and the other club directors boycotted the match in opposition to Luton's policy.

Only after half an hour, when Hazzard laid off a free kick to Wilson, whose shot squirmed off Durie's back, did Chelsea have the first hint of a shot on target. By the time Dixon finally tested Sealey with a header after 82 minutes, Chelsea were long since resigned to defeat.

The second goal came after 50 minutes when, unlike Luton, Chelsea seemed undecided as to whether to move up in an offside ploy after Clarke had headed out Danny Wilson's free kick. Breacker's through pass exploited their indecision to leave Brian Stein with a chance of emulating his brother's achievement of a simple goal.

Breacker also created the third Luton goal after 64 minutes. His dash down the right touchline was too fast for Clive Wilson, and the ensuing centre just perfect for Harford.

LUTON TOWN: L Sealey; T Breacker, R Johnson, D McDonough, S Foster, M Donaghy, D Wilson, B Stein, M Harford, M Stein, I Allinson.
CHELSEA: R Freestone; D Wood, A Dorigo, S Clarke, J McLaughlin, J Bumstead, K McAllister, M Hazard, K Dixon, G Durie, C Wilson.
Referee: J Key.

Rangers spurred by Falco's goal

By Dennis Signy

Queen's Park Rangers.. 3
Southampton 0

The arrival of Mark Falco from Rangers for £350,000 may prove to be the spur Queen's Park Rangers need to keep up with the pack following behind Liverpool in the championship race.

The statistic of three goals in 12 minutes in the second half was pleasing to Jim Smith, the Rangers manager, but he was more keen that the post-Fenwick era should begin with a clean sheet.

Maguire, who took over Fenwick's role as a Continental-style sweeper, belied his "hard man" image with a composed display that established a quick rapport with the crowd.

Playing with the knowledge that a tackle in a game at Tottenham 10 months ago might lead to legal action against him, the youngster scarcely put a foot wrong and earned praise from his manager: "He was outstanding and showed a lot of character."

After a dismal first half that suggested some players had celebrated too well overnight and produced only one corner to Rangers and no shots on target, the hosts then swept Southampton to one side.

Dawes — who had a successful switch to right back to accommodate Dennis against his former club — headed the ball across the goal-face after 69 minutes and Bannister, who had not scored in seven outings, headed past Burridge.

Dennis started the move for the second goal after 75 minutes with a ball into the Southampton area. With Moore deceived by the bounce, Falco followed through to score.

It was Falco's fourth goal in six games since returning south of the border, although four minutes later he was forced to retire, to a standing ovation, with a suspected broken nose (Smith suggested that Falco would be keen to play at Arsenal today, despite the injury).

Before Rangers could introduce Coney as substitute for Falco, Allen sent Fereday away to curl a shot wide of Burridge for his first goal of the season.

The Southampton goalkeeper, whose dislike of the plastic surface at Loftus Road resulted in his leaving Rangers, then fumbled a centre from Fereday but recovered to block a follow-up shot from Bannister.

The match must have given Brian Hall, the watching Yeovil manager, considerable food for thought before his side entertain Rangers in the FA Cup third round on January 9.

QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS: N Johns; I Dawes, M Dennis, P Parker, A McDonald, G Maguire, M Allen, M Falco (sub: D Coney), G Bannister, D Karslake, (sub: W Fereday), K Brock.
SOUTHAMPTON: J Burridge; S Baker, D Statham, J Cass, K Moore, K Bond, A Townsend, G Cockerill, C Clarke, G Baker, G Hobson (sub M Le Tissier).
Referee: I Borrett.

Bolder blocks United's way

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

Manchester United 0
Charlton Athletic 0

Manchester United entered 1988 surrounded by whispers of discontent and eventually by a roar of derision. The greeting, offered by their second lowest League crowd of the season, a mere 37,257, was as cold as the weather and as unappealing as most of the rainswept afternoon.

The reaction of the unusually subdued audience might have been different but for the presence of one man. As an obstacle lying across United's path, Charlton's goalkeeper has an appropriate name. He is called Bolder, and he appeared at times to be as substantial as a mountain.

Bought for the comparatively insignificant sum of £20,000 from Sunderland 12 months ago, he was Charlton's Player of the Year last season. There can be no doubt that he was their outstanding figure yesterday. For his series of inspirational saves, he was hailed as "absolutely brilliant" by United's manager, Alex Ferguson.

The lavish praise for the resistance party of one was justified and so was Ferguson's additional comment that: "If we make as many opportunities at Watford tomorrow, I would be disappointed if we don't score seven." Without Bolder, Charlton were in danger of conceding even more.

Yet United, with the exception of their captain, were laborious and uninspired. Apart from the occasional touch from Strachan in the first half and McClair, Robson stood alone as a convincing destroyer, creator and potential goalscorer. The rest looked as though they were still wandering around in the haze of a troublesome hangover.

Charlton, committed almost exclusively to protecting themselves, were credited with not a single direct shot. After the interval, they scarcely left their own half. Their defence was effective numerically rather than tactically but United, without the injured Whiteside, could not find a way round Bolder.

McClair, threatening to be United's first representative to score 20 League goals in a seaason since Best last achieved the feat two decades ago, seemed several times to have done so. In the first half his close-range header was tipped over and in the second a similar effort was palmed on to the bar.

Charlton's saviour blocked two attempts from Davenport with his knees, thwarted Moses from a couple of yards, parried Anderson's drive and caught Strachan's deliberately curled chip. "I don't get many games like that", Bolder said, "and I suppose that that must be the best performance of my career.

Ferguson was particularly disheartened "in view of the other results today."

The setback was compounded by the injuries inflicted on the sodden pitch. Whiteside and Moran are certain to be unavailable at Vicarage Road this afternoon. Gibson, with a calf strain, Blackmore, with a back strain, and more significantly McClair, with a pulled hamstring, might be as well. At least Robson, will be present.

MANCHESTER UNITED: C Turner; V Anderson, C Gibson, S Bruce, M Duxbury, R Moses (sub: L O'Brien), B Robson, G Strachan, B McClair, P Davenport, J Olsen (sub: C Blackmore).
CHARLTON ATHLETIC: R Bolder; J Humphrey, M Reid, S Mackenzie, P Shirtliff, S Thompson, M Bennett, D Campbell, A Jones, R Lee, P Mortimer.
Referee: T Mills.

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

3.0 unless stated

Barclays League First division

Arsenal v QPR
Chelsea v Tottenham
Coventry v Norwich
Derby v Liverpool
Newcastle v Sheffield Wed
Oxford v Wimbledon
Watford v Manchester Utd
West Ham v Luton

GM Vauxhall Conference

Boston v Altrincham
Cheltenham v Dagenham
Enfield v Telford
Fisher v Wealdstone
Kettering v Macclesfield
Kidderminster v Runcorn
Northwich v Lincoln
Stafford v Bath
Welling v Sutton Utd
Weymouth v Barnet
Wycombe v Maidstone

DRYBROUGHS NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Blyth v Consett (3.15); Ferryhill v Ryhope CA (2.15); North Shields v South Bank (3.15); Tow Law v *Chester-le-Street (2.15)*; Whitby v Guisborough; Whitley Bay v Newcastle Blue Star.

VAUXHALL-OPEL LEAGUE: First division: Basildon v Hampton; Boreham Wood v Lewes; Grays v Staines; Kingsbury v Woking; Leatherhead v Stevenage Borough; Oxford City v Wolverton; Uxbridge v Southwick; Walthamstow Avenue v Marlow; Walton and Hersham v Chesham; Wembley v Billericay; Worthing v Bracknell. Second division north: Aveley v Ware; Harlow v Barton; Hornchurch v Royston; Letchworth GC v Heybridge; Rainham v Hertford; Saffron Walden v Hemel Hempstead; Tilbury v Berkhamsted; Tring v Collier Row; Vauxhall Motors v Hanngey Borough; Witham v Finchley; Wivenhoe v Clapton. Second division south: Camberley v Feltham; Chalfont St Peter v Newbury; Dorking v Yeading; Epsom and Ewell v Chertsey; Hansfield v Eastbourne Town; Hungerford v Egham; Maidenhead Unted v Molesey; Metropolitan Police v Petersfield; Ruship Manor v Horsham; Southall v Banstead; Whyteleafe v Flackwell Heath.

Second division

Barnsley v A Villa
Birmingham v Swindon
Bradford C v Stoke
Huddersfield v Blackburn
Ipswich v Millwall
Leicester v C Palace
Mancester City v Shrewsbury
Reading v Bournemouth
Sheffield Utd v Oldham
WBA v Plymouth

Vauxhall-Opel League Premier division

Barking v Dulwich
Bognor v Harrow
Bromley v Hendon
Carshalton v Leyton-Wingate
Croydon v Bishop's Stortford
Farnborough v Basingstoke
Hayes v St Albans
Hitchin v Windsor and Eton
Kingstonian v Tooting and Mitcham
Slough v Leytonstone-Ilford
Wokingham v Yeovil

Third division

Brentford v Southend
Brighton v Aldershot
Bristol R v Bristol C
Bury v Sunderland
Chester v Blackpool
Doncaster v Wigan
Gillingham v Fulham
Mansfield v Grimsby
Notts Co v Northampton
P Vale v Chesterfield
Preston v York
Walsall v Rotherham

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Premier division: Bangor v Witton; Frickley v *Gainsborough; Gooke* v Worksop; *Norwich* v Southport; Hyde v Gateshead; Marine v Mossley; Matlock v Buxton; Morecambe v Chorley; Oswestry v Caernarfon; Rhyl v South Liverpool; Workington v Barrow. First division: Congleton v Eastwood Hanley; Curzon Ashton v Droylsden; Fleetwood v Accrington Stanley; Harrogate v Farsley; Irlam v Lancaster; Leek v Stalybridge; Penrith v Netherfield; Radcliffe Borough v Winsford.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bedworth v Leicester United; Bromsgrove v Dorchester; Cambridge City v Ashford; Chelmsford v Fareham; Corby v Aylesbury; Dartford v Alvechurch; Shepshed v Burton; Willenhall v Redditch; Witney v Crawley; Worcester v VS Rugby. Midland division: Bridgnorth v Halesowen; Buckingham v Trowbridge; Dudley v Sutton Coldfield (at Stourbridge); Forest Green v Stourbridge; Gloucester v Banbury; Grantham v Hednesford; King's Lynn v Merthyr Tydfil; Mile Oak v Rushden; Moor Green v Paget Rangers; Wellingborough v Coventry Sporting. Southern division: Baldock v Hounslow; Barnham v Thanet; Corinthian v Andover; Dunstable v Poole; Folkestone v Bury; Ruislip v Dover; Salisbury v Gravesend and Northfleet; Sheppey v Erith and Belvedere; Tonbridge v Chatham.

ABACUS WELSH LEAGUE: National division (2.15): Barry v Caerleon; Bleanrhondda v Briton Ferry; Brecon v Ton Pentre; Bridgend v Llanelli; Cwmbran v AFC Cardiff; Ebbw Vale v Maesteg; Haverfordwest v Pembroke; Port Talbot v Milford.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Bangor v Larne; Carrick v Ards; Coleraine v Cliftonville; Crusaders v Ballymena; Linfield v Distillery; Newry v Glentoran; Portadown v Glenavon.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE (2.0): Premier division: Old Carthusians v Old Cholmeleians; *Old Chigwellians* v *Old Malvernians*; Old Etonians v Old Foresters; Old Reptonians v Old Brentwoods.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Brentwood v Southend; Cardiff v Wrexham; Crewe v Wolverhampton (11.0); Exeter v Leyton Orient; Halifax v Bolton; Hartlepool v Carlisle; Hereford v Swansea; *Peterborough v Colchester*; Scarborough v Darlington; Scunthorpe v Cambridge; Stockport v Rochdale; Torquay v Newport.

vision: Barnstaple v Dawlish; Bristol City v Minehead; Bristol Manor Farm v *Clevedon; Exmouth* v *Saltash; Liskeard* v Plymouth Argyle; Melksham v Swanage and Herston; Paulton v Chippenham; Radstock v Clandown; Taunton v Frome; Torrington v Bideford (2.30); Weston-super-Mare v Mangotsfield.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE (11.0): First division: Gillingham v Arsenal; Leyton Orient v Fulham; Millwall v Cambridge; Norwich v Charlton; Queen's Park Rangers v Portsmouth; Southend v West Ham. Second division: Bournemouth v Crystal Palace; Brentford v Brighton; Luton v Bristol Rovers; Reading v Oxford; Swindon v Colchester; Tottenham v Southampton; Wimbledon v Bristol City.

GUINNESS DURHAM CUP: Second round: Blackhall CW v Brandon (1.30); Boldon CA v Bishop Auckland (1.30); Crook v Coundon TT; Easington Colliery v Whickham; Esh Winning v Herrington CW; Hebburn Reyrolles v Stockton (1.30); Spennymoor v Billingham Synthonia (3.15); *West Auckland v Shildon.*

BASS NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Atherton LR v Warrington; Clitheroe v Colne Dynamoes; Darwen v Bootle; Formby v Prescot Cables; Glossop v Colwyn Bay; Ellesmere Port and Neston v Rossendale; Kirkby v Salford; St Helens v Leyland Motors; Skelmersdale v Burscough.

BASKETBALL

CARLSBERG LEAGUE (8.0): Birmingham v Bolton and Bury; Hemel and Watford v Oldham; Leicester v Bracknell (5.30); Manchester United v Derby.

NATIONAL LEAGUE (men) (8.0): Cardiff v Ellesmere Port; Market Harborough v Stevenage; Plymouth v Aberdare (7.30).

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division women: Sheffield v Kingston (at Halifax, 6.0).

TOURNAMENT: Carlsberg tournament of champions (at Leicester).

BOWLS

COUNTY INDOOR MATCHES: Devon v Somerset (at Clevedon and Weston); Oxfordshire v Berkshire (at Iffs); Sussex v Kent (at Wealden).

COUNTY INDOOR MATCH: Leicestershire v Buckinghamshire (at Leicester).

CRICKET

WEBSTER'S NATIONAL INDOOR LEAGUE: Nardsmo zone: Hull v Derby (6.45); Sheffield v Stockport (6.0); Warrington v Manchester (6.30). Midlands zone: Cradley Heath v Wolverhampton (6.0); Leicester v Walsall (6.30); Peterborough v Nottingham (6.30). Southern zone: Fareham v Docklands (7.30); Ipswich v Dartford (6.30); Tottenham v Totton (7.0). Webster's Tankard: Leeds v Rochdale (6.30); Liverpool v Solihull (7.0); Nottingham North v Wellingborough (6.30).

HANDBALL

BRITISH LEAGUE (men): Leicester '73 v Olympia Cannock (3.0).

ICE HOCKEY

HEINEKEN LEAGUE: Premier division (6.30): Durham v Streatham Redskins; Murrayfield Racers v Solihull Barons; Whitley Warriors v Ayr Bruins.

OTHER SPORT

SNOOKER: Mercantile Credit classic (at Blackpool).

SQUASH RACKETS: Nat West bank British Under-19 open championship (at Lambs Club, London EC1).

VOLLEYBALL: Women's international tournament (at Alexandra Pavilion).

Fourth division

Burnley v Tranmere
Cardiff v Wrexham
Crewe v Wolverhampton (11.0)
Exeter v Leyton Orient
Halifax v Bolton
Hartlepool v Carlisle
Hereford v Swansea
Peterborough v Colchester
Scarborough v Darlington
Scunthorpe v Cambridge
Stockport v Rochdale
Torquay v Newport

Fine Fare Scottish League Premier division

Aberdeen v Dundee Utd
Celtic v Rangers (2.0)
Hearts v Hibernian
St Mirren v Morton (2.0)

First division

Airdrie v Hamilton
Dumbarton v Clydebank
E Fife v Raith
Kilmarnock v Queen of Sth

Second division

Arbroath v St Johnstone
Cowdenbeath v Berwick
Montrose v Brechin
Queen's Park v Albion
Stenhsemuir v E Stirling
Stirling v Alloa
Stranraer v Ayr

HOCKEY

PIZZA EXPRESS LONDON LEAGUE (2.15): Premier division: St Albans v Southgate. League: Beckenham v Old Kingstonians; Cheam v Hounslow; Hampstead v Wimbledon; Maidenhead v Dulwich; Purley v Reading; Spencer v Surbiton; Teddington v Weybridge Hawks.

McEWAN'S LAGER SOUTH LEAGUE (2.15): Premier division: Bognor v Havant.

CLUB MATCHES: Ashford v Thames Polytechnic; Broxbourne v Canterbury; Chelmsford v Harleston Magpies; Chichester v Havant; City of Oxford v Oxford Harlequins; Fareham v Basingstoke; Folkestone v Colchester; Herne Bay v Cliftonville; Middleton v Crowborough; Milton Keynes v Old Merchant Taylors; Pelicans v Norfolk Wanderers; Old Williamsonians v Gravesend; Rochester and Gillingham v Croydon MO; Southgate Adelaide v Harlow; Tunbridge Wells v Epsom; Yateley v Henley; Aldridge v Buxton; Birmingham Municipal v Leek; Blossomfield v Redditch; Bloxwich v Wednesbury; Bournville v Harborne; Cannock v Sutton Coldfield; Coalville v Boots; Corby v Egerton Park; Droitwich v Bromsgrove; Finchfield v Stone; GEC Coventry v Edgbaston; GEC Stafford v Kingswinford; Gloucester v Evesham; John Player v Mansfield; Kettering v Grantham; Kidderminster v Wombourne; Kings Heath v Pickwick; Loughborough v Ashby; Ludlow v Newtown; Market Drayton v Tamworth; Northampton Saints v Leicester; North Nottinghamshire v South Nottingham; North Stafford v Wolverhampton; Nuneaton v Lichfield; Old Halesonians v Stafford; Old Silhillians v Belper; Old Wulfrunians v Telford; Rugby v Hampton in Arden; Stourport v Bridgnorth; West Bridgford v Barton.

ICE HOCKEY

HEINEKEN LEAGUE: Premier division: Dundee Tigers v Solihull Barons (7.0); Fife Flyers v Durham Wasps (4.0); Nottingham Panthers v Peterborough Pirates (6.30); Whitley Warriors v Streatham Redskins (6.30).

LACROSSE

ERINE NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Beaconsfield and Eccles v Old Waconians; Heaton Mersey v Cheadle; Rochdale v Old Hulmeians; Stockport v Sheffield University; Urmston v Sale.

NETBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: East Essex v Herfordshire (at Gloucester Park, Basildon); Surrey v Coventry/Solihull/Warwickshire (at James Allen Girls School, London SE21); Berkingham v Bedfordshire (at Aston Manor School); Hampshire North v Essex Metropolitan.

OTHER SPORT

ATHLETICS: Malleak cross-country international (at Belfast); Southern women's inter-counties championships (at Aldershot, 1.30); Hercules Wimbledon/Leuriston 10km road race (at Wimbledon.

SNOOKER: Mercantile Credit classic (at Blackpool).

SQUASH RACKETS: Nat West Bank British Under-19 open championship (at Lambs Club, London EC1).

TENNIS: British junior championships (at Queen's Club, West Kensington).

VOLLEYBALL: Women's international tournament (at Alexandra Pavilion).

RUGBY UNION

ENGLISH TRIAL

England v England B (at Twickenham, 2.0)

SCOTTISH TRIAL

Blues v Whites (at Murrayfield, 2.0)

COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP

First division

Wasps v Harlequins
Waterloo v Sale (2.15)

Second division

Northampton v London Welsh
Rosslyn Park v Blackheath (2.15)

Third division

Birmingham v Nuneaton (2.30)
Maidstone v Exeter (2.30)
Met Police v W Hartlepool (2.15)

North area

Northern v Durham (2.15)
Preston Grnprs v Derby (2.30)
Roundhay v Broughton Park (2.15)
Rugby v Birkenhead Park (2.30)
Solihull v Stourbridge (2.30)

South area

Salisbury v Havant (2.15)
Sidcup v Cheltenham (2.15)
Streatham-C v Askeans (2.30)
Stroud v Sudbury (2.30)

LONDON: First division: Ealing v Ruislip; Esher v Old gaytonians; Dartfordians v Upper Clapton; Guildford and Godalming v Ipswich; Lewes v US Portsmouth. Second division north: Grasshoppers v North Walsham; Hertford v Woodford; Old Merchant Taylors v Norwich; Old Albanians v Thurrock; St Mary's Hospital v West London Institute. Second division south: Camberley v Gravesend; KCS Old Boys v Old Juddians; Old Mid-Whigtifians v Old Reigatians; Portsmouth v Reading; Stoke; Worthing v Old Brocklebians. Third division north east: Brentwood v Chingford; Bury St Edmunds v West Norfolk; Colchester v Old Westcliffians; Ipswich YMCA v Barking; Old Canterbrigians v Eton Manor. Third division north west: Harrow v Bishop's Stortford; Hendon v Letchworth; Mill Hill v Tabard; Old Kingsburians v Bacavians; Twickenham v Old Paulines. Third division south east: Crawley v Horsham; East Grinstead v Canterbury; Old Beccehamians v Old Colfeians; Old Dunstonians v Beckenham; Tunbridge Wells v Gillingham Anchorians. Third division south west: Alton v Old Whiptifians; Eastleigh v Trojans; Jersey v Old Emanuel; Warlingham v Purley; Winchester v Guy's Hospital.

MIDLANDS: First division: Hinckley v Peterborough; Mansfield v Walsall; Paviors v Stoke; Stafford v Barker's Butts; Westleigh v Wolverhampton. Second division east: Leighton Buzzard v Lincoln; Loughborough v Stoneygate; Matlock v Wigston; Syston v Newark; Vipers v Stamford. Second division west: Bromsgrove v Leamington; Burton v Dudley Kingswinford; Droitwich v Newbold; Harborne v Sutton Coldfield; Tamworth v Evesham. East Midlands/Leicestershire: Luton v Oadby-Wyggestonians; Melton Mowbray v Bedford Athletic; Northampton Trinity v Aylestone St James; South Leicester v Long Buckby; Towcestrians v Stewarts and Lloyds. North Midlands: First division: Camp Hill v Bridgnorth; Erdington v Kings Norton; Edwardians v Old Halesonians; Luctonians v Old Yardleians; Whitchurch v Newport. Notts, Lincs and Derbyshire: First division: Grimsby v Chesterfield; Kesteven v Boston; Mellish v Worksop; Moderns v West Bridgford; Scunthorpe v Southwell. Staffordshire/Warwickshire: Handsworth v Willenhall; Nuneaton OE v Stratford; Old Leamingtonians v Leek; Old Longtonians v Bedworth; Newcastle v Stoke Old Boys.

NORTH: First division: Harrogate v Wigton; Middlesbrough v Tynedale; Otley v Widnes; West Park v Hull and ER; Winnington Park v Kendal. Second division: Aspatria v Davenport; Bradford and Bingley v Sandal; Manchester v Lymm; New Brighton v Alnwick; Wilmslow v Huddersfield. North east: First division: Keighley v Thornensians; Old Brodleians v Wharfedale; Old Crossleyans v Wessex; Ripon v Gateshead Fell; Rotherham v Bleydon. North west: First division: Carlisle v Egremont; Mid Cheshire College v Southport; Netherhall v Blackburn; *Rochdale v Caldy*; Wirral v Wigan.

SOUTH AND SOUTH WEST: First division: Oxford v High Wycombe; Redruth v Clifton; St Ives v Bridgwater and Albion; Taunton v Bournemouth; Torquay Athletic v Weston-super-Mare. Second division: Devon and Cornwall Police v Brixham; Devonport Services v Barry Hill; Henley v Barnstaple; Launceston v Abbey; Newbury v Reading. Southern counties: Oxford Marathon v Bracknell; Oxford Old Boys v Bletchley; Redingensians v Banbury; Swindon v Aylesbury; Wimborne v Wardour. Western division: Newquay Hornets v Gordon League; Okehampton v Clevedon; Old Redcliffians v Cirencester; Sidmouth v Avon and Somerset Police; Tiverton v Truro.

ULSTER: Club games: Instonians v Armagh; Ballymena v Academy; CIYMS v Coleraine; Collegians v Queen's University; NIFC v City of Derry; Malone v Bangor; Portadown v Ards; Wanderers v Dungannon.

CLUB MATCHES

Aberavon v Swansea
Ayr v Kilmarnock (2.15)
Bedford v Bristol
Cardiff v Bath
Coventry v Neath
Kelso v Edinburgh Acads (2.15)
Langholm v Hawick (2.15)
Leicester v Headingley
L Scottish v Gloucester (2.30)
Melrose v Jed Forest (2.15)
Moseley v Glamorgan W
Newbridge v Llanelli
Newport v Bridgend
Nottingham v L Irish
Orrell v Morley (2.30)
Penarth v Abertillery
Pontypool v Maesteg
Pontypridd v Cross Keys
Saracens v Ebbw Vale (2.15)
Sheffield v Hartlepool R (2.30)
S Wales Police v Richmond (2.30)
Vale of Lune v Gosforth (2.15)
W of Scotland v Edinburgh W (2.15)

RUGBY LEAGUE

SLALOM LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE (2.30): Heworth v Egremont. League Cup: First round: Leigh Miners v Pilkingtons; Milford v Woolston; West Hull v Dudley Hill; Wigan St Patricks v Millom.

TOMORROW

Barclays League First division
Everton v Nottingham F (3.05)
Southampton v Portsmouth (12.0)

Second division
Hull v Leeds (12.0)

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP: Bradford v Castleford (3.30); Hull v Hull KR; St Helens v Widnes. Second division: Barrow v Workington (2.30); Bramley v Sheffield (3.30); Dewsbury v Batley (2.30); *Mansfield v Fulham*; Rochdale v Huddersfield; Springfield v Oldham; York v Doncaster (2.15).

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE (men): Gateshead v Tower Hamlets (4.0).

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division women: Crystal Palace v Stockport (2.0); Ipswich v London YMCA (3.0); Nottingham v London Jets (3.30).

TOURNAMENT: Carlsberg tournament of champions (at Leicester).

BOWLS

MIDLANDS COUNTIES INDOOR LEAGUE: Warwickshire v Northamptonshire (at Coventry).

HOME COUNTIES INDOOR LEAGUE: Kent v Oxfordshire (at Maidstone and Oxford City and County); Middlesex v Sussex (at Cambridge Park and Eastbourne).

SPORT ON TV

DARTS AND SNOOKER: MFI British darts open from Kensington's Rainbow Suite and Mercantile Credit snooker classic from Norbreck Castle, Blackpool. ITV: 2.15-4.45 p.m. (see also Snooker).

GRANDSTAND: Football focus. Racing: 1.0, 1.30, 2.0 and 2.30 races from Newbury. Skiing: Ski jumping from Garmisch. Ice Hockey: Fife Flyers v Durham Wasps. Basketball: Carlsberg tournament of champions from Leicester. Final score; 4.40 p.m. BBC1: 12.15-5.05 p.m.

SAINT AND GREAVSIE: ITV: 1.05 p.m. Results service: 4.45 p.m.

SNOOKER: Mercantile Credit classic from Norbreck Castle, Blackpool. ITV: 11 p.m.

YACHTING: Defeat Into Victory: The America's Cup 1983-7. BBC2: 4.35 p.m.

TOMORROW

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: Super Bowl play-offs. C4: 11.30 p.m.

ATHLETICS 1987: Review of the Athletics highlights of 1987. ITV: 12 p.m.

GYMNASTICS 1987: Highlights of the European championships in Moscow, the World championships in Rotterdam and rhythmic gymnastics. C4: 6.0-7.15 p.m.

FOOTBALL: Match of the day live: Everton v Nottingham Forest from Goodison Park. BBC1: 3 p.m.

RUGBY SPECIAL: England trial from Twickenham. BBC2: 2 p.m.

SKI SUNDAY: Ski jumping from the Four Hills tournament, third round at Innsbruck, Austria. BBC2: 5.40 p.m.

SNOOKER: Mercantile Credit classic from Norbreck Castle, Blackpool. ITV: 2.30-5.0 and 10.30 p.m.

THE WINNING YEARS: Interview with former world champion motor cyclists Geoff Duke and Cecil Sandford and with trials riders Bill Nicholson and Olga Kavalos. BBC1: 10 a.m.

VOLLEYBALL

Americans pushed all the way

England exceeded expectations in their opening match at the English Volleyball Association women's international tournament at the Alexandra Pavilion in London yesterday, keeping the American touring side, the US Ambassadors, on court for fully an hour (Roddy Mackenzie writes).

Indeed, England came close to taking a set off a team that included two members of the squad which won the silver medal at the Los Angeles Olympics, before going down, 15-3, 15-7, 16-14.

England led 13-11 in the final set, with Wendy Gates, Debbie Frost and Donna Sedgewick making notable contributions. However, the Americans regained their composure to clinch the match.

Ian Goswell, the England coach, who is not expecting too much in terms of results from the tournament, assessed: "We have three aims this week — to train, to watch good volleyball and to play some competitive matches."

For one member of the Ambassadors — Karen Bonokonsky — the current European tour has proved lucrative. Instead of returning home with her team, she will be joining Orion, the Dutch first division club, on a short-term contract.

BOWLS

Openings are limited in England trial

England's indoor bowls team is riding so high that in tomorrow's final trial at Hartlepool there are only limited opportunities for anyone hoping to break into the national side (David Rhys Jones writes).

Three places are available, however, because the selectors have taken the unusual step of jettisoning two leads and a third man from last year's winning team — Martyn Sekjer, Richard Roylands and Terry Heppell.

Gary Smith moves up to support Andy Thomson, while Iain Boyle and Ronnie Gass are given their chance to impress as Thomson's front end. John Rednall, from Ipswich, replaces Roylands.

The remaining four rinks are left undisturbed, although some of the established players may well be hard-pressedby the presence of some highly competitive outsiders.

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FOOTBALL: THE SECOND DIVISION TITLE RACE BECOMES EVER TIGHTER

Leeds hack swathe through clubs with promotion dreams

By Martin Searby

Leeds United	2
Bradford City	0

The renaissance of Leeds continued with a sixth successive League victory, this time plunging Bradford from second place to fifth in the second division, although this west Yorkshire derby was a much lower key affair than when Middlesbrough, the then leaders, fell on Monday.

Bradford, the early pacemakers, have subsided alarmingly and hardly mustered a cogent attack, while their defence was under sustained pressure. Sheridan and Batty fueled Bradford's problems in midfield by outclassing Abbott and McCall.

Abbott's only real contribution was two bad fouls on Sheridan and, while loath to criticise the referee Hackett, who eliminates professional petulence, his indulgence here reduced the Leeds player to half speed for the last hour.

Snodin, Batty and Davison had already pulled Bradford apart before the twelfth-minute goal. Evans produced a limp tackle on Davison and when Snodin swung the ball over, an unmarked Williams ran in to head home decisively.

When Bradford did move forward, both Ellis and Goddard dallied with their crosses and Hendrie, perhaps unwisely used down the middle, had his effectiveness blunted by Ashurst and Haddock who were both in fine fettle.

Only one effort from Bradford posed any threat — a shot on the turn from Hendrie which grazed Day's left hand post.

Leeds, in contrast, continued to swing the ball about and always looked in control with Batty making up for Sheridan's lack of manoeuvrability. The Irishman still managed a superb, curling shot from 30 yards which Tomlinson leapt to claw out of the angle of post and bar.

Bradford made two substitutions in an attempt to liven up their attack but as they pushed forward, Leeds exploited the gaps and with 10 minutes to go, Williams hit a long ball to the far post, Davison dropped it into Snodin's path and the volley bounced home.

Terry Dolan, the Bradford manager, said: "Too many of our players were having an off day together while Leeds are having a good run. I am still confident that we will go up."

LEEDS UNITED: M Day; N Aspin, M Adams, G Williams, J Ashurst, P Haddock, D Batty, J Sheridan, P Swan, R Davison, G Snodin.

BRADFORD CITY: P Tomlinson; B Mitchell, K Goddard (sub: M Leonard), S McCall, G Oliver, D Evans, J Hendrie, L Sinnott, R Fletcher (sub: I Ormondroyd), G Abbott, M Ellis.
Referee: K Hackett.

Villa make amends and head division

By Chris Moore

Aston Villa	5
Hull City	0

Aston Villa launched the new year in scintillating fashion by leap-frogging four places to the top of the second division with their biggest win of the season at Villa Park yesterday.

They extracted the best possible revenge for their only away defeat of the campaign by taking Hull apart in a remarkable second half that brought them four goals in 19 minutes.

Ironically it was the substitute, Aspinall, dropped by the manager, Graham Taylor, before the start who grabbed two opportunist goals to set them on their way.

Villa, with Sims injured and Walters departed, were one up inside five minutes.

They were denied a penalty when Daniel body-checked McInally inside the area. But their enterprise was suitably rewarded as Gage touched the indirect free kick back to Stuart Gray whose shot curled wide of Norman into the far corner.

Within minutes, however Gray's joy turned to agony as he was carried off with an ankle injury to make way for Aspinall.

The club captain, Evans, making his first full appearance of the season, was adjudged to have fouled Saville. But Spink dived to his left to keep out the resultant spot-kick.

He was on his mettle again in thwarting Saville, Askew and Parker as Hull threatened to seize the initiative either side of the interval.

Villa, however, could hardly have fashioned a more devastating response as they effectively killed the game with three goals in nine minutes.

Aspinall was on hand to make it 2-0 in the 57th minute after Thompson, who was earlier booked for the fourth time in nine games, had a header blocked on the line.

Evans then flicked on another Gallacher corner for Aspinall to head his eleventh goal of the season, with Andy Gray drilling home the fourth, his first for the club, from outside the area.

It was left to McInally to complete Villa's nap hand in the 77th minute with an angled drive into the far corner.

A delighted Taylor said: "I saw a lot of good things in our performance today but my feelings are tempered by the injury to Stuart Gray. It looks as if he has a muscular problem in his back and he was being detained in hospital."

ASTON VILLA: N Spink; K Gage, B Gallacher, A Gray, A Evans, M Keown, P Birch, M Lillis, G Thompson, S Gray, (sub: W Aspinall), A McInally.
HULL CITY: A Norman; C Palmer, R Daniel, (sub: N Williams), R Jobson, P Skipper, G Parker, G Roberts, A Saville, A Dyer, B Askew, P Heard.
Referee: W Burge.



Sleight of hand: Teague demonstrating undiminished dexterity in Gloucester's back row

RUGBY UNION

Teague and his team refuse to throw in the sponge

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

Gloucester	18
Moseley	12

It would have been quite unfair to start a new year with a game as poor as the first half of this Courage Clubs Championship first division match at Kingsholm yesterday threatened to be. The saving grace proved to be the Gloucester back row, in which Mike Teague demonstrated that his basic skills as a No. 8 have not been diminished by absence.

The scoreline of a goal and three tries to four penalty goals indicates something of the tenor of the game, victory (against opponents who beat them twice last season) permitting Gloucester to ease their way into fourth place in the table with a game against the leaders, Leicester, to come a week today.

In the first half Gloucester could do nothing right and trailed 9-0; in the second their forwards played considerably better against a strangely supine Moseley. It was also the day on which the domestic experiment permitting spongemen on to the field to attend injuries during play began. Alas, scarcely a player went down and there was only a half-hearted dash by the Gloucester spongeman to a player already on his feet to mark the coming of the new regulation.

"There was no time added on for injury, which is something I have never experienced before," Laurie Prideaux , the referee, said.

As for speeding the game up, which the rule is designed to do, we could have done with it during an appalling first half punctuated by Prideaux's whistle. The crowd took the view that he had it in for Gloucester, particularly as Jones sent three successful kicks sailing down the strong wind, one from his own half.

But the basic skills were so notable by their absence that the referee had little alternative. The tide turned Gloucester's way in the third quarter when Teague and his agile flankers took matters into their own hands.

They profited from Gloucester's superiority at the lineout to make surging assaults on the Moseley line and, bravely though the Midlanders defended at the set-pieces, they could not stop the cohesive rolling drives Teague and Ian Smith put together.

It was the back row, with Bennett twice involved, which paved the way for the two Smiths to send Morgan over. Gloucester went ahead when Goodwin missed a high ball, Barr failed to find touch and Breeze did much of the work before Mann scrambled over.

It was a good afternoon for the reserve hooker. With Dunn away on trial duty, he took a heel against the head and may have to pay extra dues to the front-row forwards union for scoring a second try after Bennett's sturdy drive.

That was the finale. Breeze having crossed after Hannaford changed direction following Cummins's determined run down the middle. Even then Gloucester should have scored on the right had Cummins not ignored two men running free. But we must not be churlish; it is still the season of goodwill.

SCORERS: Gloucester: Tries: Mann (2), Morgan, Breeze. Conversion: T Smith. Moseley: Penalties: Jones (4).
GLOUCESTER: T Smith; D Morgan, D Cummins, C Dyke, J Breeze; M Hamlin, M Hannaford (capt); M Preedy, G Mann, R Phillips, J Bennett, N Scrivens, J Brain, I Smith. M Teague.
MOSELEY: J Goodwin; A Parsons, M Wakelam, C Allen, A James; M Jones, B Fenley; M Linnett, C Barbor, G Smith, R Barr (capt), R Denbardt, R Tuckwood, S Masters, P Daniell.
Referee: L Prideaux (Cornwall).

Yesterday's results

COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP
First division

Gloucester	18	Moseley	12

Gloucester: Tries: Mann (2), Breeze, Morgan. Conversion: Smith. Moseley: Penalties: Jones (4).

CLUB MATCHES

Hawick	23	Heriots FP	4
Manchester (Cancelled)		Lpool St H	

RUGBY LEAGUE

Four men sent off after mass brawl

By Keith Macklin

Those who care about the reputation of Rugby League were in dismay and despair after 20 minutes of the 15-15 draw between Warrington and Wigan at Wilderspool yesterday.

Four men, two each from Warrington and Wigan, had been sent off, a third Warrington player was in the sin bin, and the Warrington coach, Tony Barrow, had been lectured by the referee.

There had been a furious brawl in the tenth minute, with most players joining in either as trouble-makers and peace-makers, and the match had threatened to explode in the face of Kevin Allatt, the referee.

Humphries, of Warrington, and Shelford, of Wigan, were sent off. Boyd, of Warrington, was sent to the sin bin, but still the players continued to feud and fight. Cullen, the Warrington centre, was flattened off the ball by Goodway, and lay prone as if unconscious.

The referee sent off Goodway, at which point Cullen made a dramatic recovery, jumped to his feet, raced after Goodway and struck him at the entrance to the tunnel. The referee sent off Cullen and afterwards Barrow said of his player: "Cullen was stupid. It was sheer indiscipline."

When the sides finally settled down to play 11-a-side rugby, an entertaining game thrilled the crowd. Warrington dominated the first half and led 13-4 with tries from McGinty and Johnson, with two goals and a dropped goal by Woods against an individual try from Hanley.

In the second half Wigan, inspired by the scrum-half Gregory, scored tries through Hampson and Hanley, with a goal from Iro and a dropped goal from Gregory which justifiably tied the scores.

It was unfortunate for Wigan that earlier in the day they transferred Stephenson to Leeds, for Iro missed several kicks at goal which could have won the game for them.

In other first division games, Leeds kept up their title challenge by beating Hunslet 28-12, Halifax returned to form by thrashing Swinton 36-0 and Leigh beat Salford 18-0.

The battle between the neighbours and rivals for promotion in West Yorkshire ended in victory for Featherstone Rovers 21-16 at Wakefield.

FIRST DIVISION: Leigh 18, Salford 0; Warrington 15, Wigan 15; Halifax 36, Swinton 0; Leeds 28, Hunslet 12.
SECOND DIVISION: Wakefield 16, Featherstone 21; Runcorn Highfield 20, Keighley 16; Whitehaven 4, Carlisle 6.

Big-spending Leeds sign Stephenson

Leeds took their spending nearer the £1 million mark yesterday when they signed the Wigan and Great Britain three-quarter, David Stephenson, for a fee believed to be close to £100,000.

Leeds, who are spending their way to success, have added another international to their already expensive and gifted squad with the purchase of Stephenson, who will be missed by Wigan for his goal-kicking and for his all-round utility play, which has seen him figure in all the three-quarter positions.

He had been in dispute with Wigan for several weeks

Barnsley's gifts lie unopened

By Ian Stafford

Crystal Palace	3
Barnsley	2

Crystal Palace began 1988 in a similar fashion to the way they ended 1987, except for one important difference. As against Reading, on Monday, Steve Coppell's promotion hopefuls entered into the holiday spirit by presenting Barnsley with a stocking full of chances. But this time Palace came out on top by the odd goal in five.

Bailey's close-range header from a Wright cross, with six minutes remaining, may seem rough justice for a Barnsley team which twice clawed their way back, but it made amends for Barnsley doing exactly the same against the south Londoners back in August.

The year could not have started in a worse manner for Barnsley, when McGugan headed past his own goalkeeper in the 32nd minute after a Redfearn corner had been flicked on by Nebbeling.

But cracks had already appeared in the Palace defence. Thirteen minutes after the interval, Futcher's timely tackle on Cannon sent Foreman clear. Half the Barnsley team were lining up to apply the finishing touch and it was Agnew who helped the ball across the line.

Before the Palace supporters could vent their feelings Pennyfather sent Wright away, and his shot from the right was thumped so hard that it almost went through Baker for the forward's seventeenth goal of the season.

Back came Barnsley again when Lowndes's drive from the right took a wicked deflection and bobbled over Wood.

Shortly afterwards, Broddle's effort nearly crept home for a third Barnsley goal.

CRYSTAL PALACE: G Wood; G Stebbing, D Burke, G Pennyfather, G Nebbeling, J Cannon, N Redfearn, G Thomas, P Barber, I Wright, J Salako (sub: D Bailey).
BARNSLEY: C Baker; G Coatsworth, P Cross, G Thomas, P McGugan, P Futcher, D Foreman, S Agnew, S Lowndes, J MacDonald, J Broddle.
Referee: A Gunn.

Eagerness keeps Leicester at bay

By Simon O'Hagan

Millwall	1
Leicester City	0

Millwall kept up their half of south London's challenge for promotion to the first division yesterday when they inflicted on Leicester their third defeat in a row since David Pleat took charge of the club.

Although the former Tottenham Hotspur manager was not at The Den to see his side beaten, he need not feel too discouraged by the result. Leicester showed enough ability and endeavour to suggest that once Pleat gets to grips with them they will not be languishing long in the lower reaches of the table.

This has been an excellent period for Millwall, despite their side having been severely depleted by injury. Victory at Ipswich Town today, where their true potential should receive a searching examination, would be their fourth in a row.

It is all proving good experience for the club's younger players. There were some excellent performances from them yesterday — notably in the case of Morgan in defence and Carter on the left wing — while Cascarino, back after a month out with two broken ribs, led the attack wholeheartedly and might have scored on a number of occasions.

In the end the outcome was decided by Briley's third-minute goal, a shot driven in from the edge of the penalty area after Thompson, another youngster doing his bit to keep a makeshift defence together, headed down Byrne's corner. Millwall kept up the pressure for most of the first half, although Leicester might have equalized after half an hour when Wilkinson had a shot from close range turned away by Horne.

Leicester's rhythm improved in the second half and some nimble approach work occasionally had Millwall struggling. They responded positively, though, and Cascarino almost put the result beyond doubt when he cut in from the left and clipped the bar with a dipping shot.

As it was, Millwall's sheer eagerness was enough to keep Leicester at bay in a match that was much livelier than it had a right to be considering that it kicked off at 11.30 a.m. on New Year's Day.

MILLWALL: B Horne; D Salmon, N Coleman, K Stevens, D Thompson, D Morgan, D Byrne, L Briley, E Sheringham, A Cascarino, J Carter.
LEICESTER CITY: I Anderson; R James, M Venus, P Horner, A Brien, A Mauchlen, G McAllister, S Wilkinson, M Newell, P Ramsey, K McDonald (sub: P Reid).
Referee: D Hedges.

Linfield on the march

Only the bottom team, Distillery, stand between the League champions, Linfield, and a 12-point haul from their four holiday fixtures in the Smirnoff Irish League (George Ace writes).

At Windsor Park — the venue for today's game against Distillery — Linfield hit a hapless Cliftonville with a three-goal burst between the 80th and 82nd minutes. Coyle, on loan from Everton, MacLeod and McGaughey were the marksmen after Linfield had led 2-0 at half-time through an own goal by Press and a superbly headed effort by MacLeod from a Murray cross.

Glentoran went top of the table with a 1-0 win over Crusaders at the Oval, Morrison netting in the first minute after Glenavon and Newry Town played a goalless draw

The Oval side lead Linfield and Glenavon by a point with a tally of 21 from 10 games

Coleraine had an emphatic 4-0 away win against Bangor, with Tabb scoring twice, to move close on the heels of the leaders with 18 points. A Dougherty goal was sufficient to clinch the points for Ballymena United against Carrick Rangers, while Larne, with goals by McCready and Bustard, accounted for Ards.

Middlesbrough slump again

Middlesbrough slipped from the second division leadership with their second defeat in a week as Oldham Athletic eased their relegation worries with a 3-1 victory at Boundary Park.

Middlesbrough, with the best defensive record in the division, found themselves two goals down by the interval as Ritchie and Palmer struck for Oldham

Oldham also squandered several chances before Middlesbrough clawed their way back into the game in the 76th minute through Kerr, but Oldham restored their two-goal advantage when Ritchie scored from the penalty spot three minutes later.

YESTERDAY'S FOOTBALL RESULTS AND TABLES

Barclays League
First division

LIVERPOOL (1) Beardsley 2, Aldridge, Houghton	4	COVENTRY (0) 38,750	0		
LUTON (1) M Stein, B Stein, Harford	3	CHELSEA (0) 8,018	0		
MAN UTD (0) 37,257	0	CHARLTON (0)	0		
NORWICH (0) Gordon, Drinkell, Bowen, Rosario	4	WEST HAM (1) Cottee 20,059	1		
C PALACE (1) McGugan og, Wright, Bailey	3	BARNSLEY (0) Agnew, Lowndes 8,593	2		
LEEDS (1) Williams, Snodin	2	BRADFORD (0) 36,004	0		
MILLWALL (1) Briley	1	LEICESTER (0) 7,220	0		
OLDHAM (2) Ritchie 2 (1pen), Palmer	3	MIDDLESBRO (0) Kerr 8,181	1		
PLYMOUTH (0) Tynan (pen) 13,290	1	READING (0) Gilkes (pen), Jones, Moran	3		
SHREWSBRY (1) Brown, Bell, Robinson	3	HUDDERSFLD (0) Cork 5,448	1		
STOKE (1) Morgan 9,976	1	IPSWICH (1) Lowe D'Avray	2		
SWINDON (0) White 2	2	WEST BROM (0) 12,155	0		
QPR (0) Bannister, Falco, Fereday	3	STHMPTN (0) 8,631	0		
SHEFF WED (1) Proctor	1	EVERTON (0) 26,433	0		
TOTTENHAM (0) C Allen, Moran	2	WATFORD (0) Morris 25,235	1		
WIMBLEDON (1) Cork, Fashanu	2	DERBY (1) Callaghan 5,479	1		
PORTSMITH (1) Connor 17,366	1	ARSENAL (0) Smith	1		

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	22	17	5	0	55	11	56
Nottm For	21	13	4	4	44	18	43
Arsenal	23	12	5	6	36	21	41
Manchester U	22	10	9	3	35	22	39
QPR	23	11	6	6	30	27	39
Everton	23	10	7	6	32	16	37
Wimbledon	23	10	7	6	33	26	37
Luton	22	9	4	9	30	25	31
Tottenham	23	9	4	10	24	27	31
Sheff Wed	23	9	3	11	26	36	30
Chelsea	23	8	5	10	31	39	29
Southampton	22	7	7	8	31	34	28
Newcastle	22	7	7	8	28	33	28
West Ham	23	8	4	9	28	33	28
Norwich	23	7	3	13	23	30	24
Derby	22	5	6	10	20	27	24
Coventry	22	6	6	10	22	36	24
Oxford	22	6	4	12	24	39	22
Portsmouth	23	4	9	10	20	40	21
Charlton	23	4	7	12	21	34	19
Watford	22	4	6	12	15	30	18

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Ballymena 1, Carrick 0; Bangor 0, Coleraine 4; Cliftonville 0, Linfield 5; Distillery 1, Portadown 2; Glenavon 0, Newry 0; Glentoran 1, Crusaders 0; Larne 2, Ards 0.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashford 2, Crawley 3; Aylesbury 3, Chelmsford 1; Buron 2, Willenhall 2; Cambridge City 0, Dartford 1; Dorchester 4, Gosport 1; Nuneaton 0, Corby 1; Shepshed 1, Bedworth 2; V8 Rugby 1, Leicester United 1; Worcester 1, Bromsgrove 1. Midland division: Atherstone 3, Hednesford 0; Bilston 0, Dudley 4; Forest Green 0, Bridgnorth 0; King's Lynn 1, Wellingborough 0; Merthyr Tydfil 3, Gloucester 1; Moor Green 2, Sutton Coldfield 1; Paget Rangers 2, Grantham 3; Rushden 4, Buckingham 6. Postponed: Coventry Sporting v Trowbridge. Southern division: Andover 0, Poole 0; Bury 5, Ruislip 3; Chesham 1, Sheppey 5; Corinthian 4, Erith and Belvedere 1; Dover 1, Canterbury 0; Hastings 2, Folkestone 2; Hounslow 1, Burnham 3; Salisbury 2, Waterlooville 3; Thanet 0, Gravesend and Northfleet 0.

Second division

A VILLA (1) Aspinall 2, S Gray, A Gray, McInally	5	HULL (0) 19,236	0		
BLACKBURN (3) Price, Garner, Baker (pen), Hendry	4	SHEFF UTD (0) Mendonca 10,593	1		
BOURNMTH (1) Cooke 2 (1 pen), Shearer, Puckett	4	BIRMINGHM (0) Dicks, Wigley 7,863	2		
C PALACE (1) McGugan og, Wright, Bailey	3	BARNSLEY (0) Agnew, Lowndes 8,593	2		
LEEDS (1) Williams, Snodin	2	BRADFORD (0) 36,004	0		
MILLWALL (1) Briley	1	LEICESTER (0) 7,220	0		
OLDHAM (2) Ritchie 2 (1pen), Palmer	3	MIDDLESBRO (0) Kerr 8,181	1		
PLYMOUTH (0) Tynan (pen) 13,290	1	READING (0) Gilkes (pen), Jones, Moran	3		
SHREWSBRY (1) Brown, Bell, Robinson	3	HUDDERSFLD (0) Cork 5,448	1		
STOKE (1) Morgan 9,976	1	IPSWICH (1) Lowe D'Avray	2		
SWINDON (0) White 2	2	WEST BROM (0) 12,155	0		

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aston Villa	27	13	10	4	42	23	49
Middlesbro	27	14	7	6	37	20	49
Crystal Pal	27	15	3	9	46	34	48
Millwall	27	14	6	7	41	31	48
Bradford	26	13	6	7	39	25	45
Ipswich	28	12	9	5	36	25	45
Blackburn	26	12	9	5	37	21	45
Hull	27	12	8	7	37	32	44
Leeds	26	12	6	8	54	35	42
Man City	25	12	4	9	47	35	40
Swindon	25	10	6	9	39	33	36
Barnsley	27	10	6	11	43	42	36
Birmingham	27	9	7	11	28	41	34
Stoke	27	9	6	12	29	37	33
Bournemouth	27	8	7	12	36	43	31
Oldham	26	7	7	12	27	37	28
Shefd Utd	27	7	6	14	30	45	27
Leicester	25	6	5	14	25	37	23
West Brom	27	6	5	16	31	48	23
Shrewsbury	27	4	10	13	23	39	22
Reading	26	5	6	15	28	48	21
Huddersfield	27	4	8	15	29	64	20

Fine Fare Scottish League
Premier division

DUNDEE (0) Coyne 2 (1 pen)	2	DNFRMLINE (0)	0		
MTHWELL (0)	0	FALKIRK (0)	0		

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic	27	17	8	2	51	18	42
Aberdeen	27	15	10	2	42	15	40
Hearts	27	15	9	3	46	22	39
Rangers	26	16	5	5	48	17	37
Dundee	27	14	5	8	54	32	33
Dundee U	27	9	7	11	29	32	25
Hibernian	27	7	10	10	28	31	24
St Mirren	28	7	7	14	32	39	23
Motherwell	28	7	5	16	19	39	19
Dunfermline	26	5	8	15	24	54	18
Falkirk	28	4	7	17	25	56	15
Morton	27	2	7	18	21	65	11

Third division

ALDERSHOT(3) Langley 2 (1 pen), Burvill	3	BRISTOL R (0) 4,593	0		
BLACKPOOL(2) Butler, Cunningham, Maddren Morgan Deary	5	BURY (1) Hoyland 4,240	1		
BRISTOL C (0) Shutt, Gallaers 12,877	2	BRENTFORD(3) Blissett 2, Sinton	3		
CHESTRFLD (1) Coleman og, Bloomer, Waller	3	MANSFIELD (0) Cassells 5,070	1		
FULHAM (1) Davies 6,530	1	BRIGHTON (0) Trusson, Jasper	2		
GRIMSBY (0) 5,297	0	NOTTS CO (0)	0		
NTHMPTON (0) Chard, Donegal 2,832	2	WALSALL (2) Jones, Cross	2		
ROTHERHAM (0) Haycock	1	P VALE (0) 3,913	0		
SOUTHEND (0) Crown 5,254	1	GILLINGHM (2) Peacock, Cooper, Lovell	3		
SNDRLAND (3) Lemon 2, Gabbiadini	3	DONCASTER Burton 19,418	(1)	1	
WIGAN (2) Hilditch 2	2	PRESTON (0) 6,872	0		
YORK (1) Clegg, Wilson	2	CHESTER (0) 2,585	0		

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sunderland	25	15	7	3	51	22	52
Notts County	25	13	9	3	47	27	48
Walsall	25	12	9	4	37	24	45
Wigan	24	12	7	5	38	30	43
Brighton	25	11	10	4	35	27	43
Brentford	25	11	8	6	34	31	41
Bristol City	25	11	7	7	38	31	40
Northampton	25	9	11	5	38	28	38
Blackpool	24	9	8	7	37	29	35
Fulham	25	10	5	10	36	31	35
Aldershot	23	11	2	10	44	43	35
Gillingham	25	8	10	7	49	34	34
Bury	25	8	10	7	37	36	34
Rotherham	25	8	8	9	29	33	32
Chesterfield	25	9	4	12	24	42	31
Bristol R	25	8	6	11	41	45	30
Chester	25	7	9	9	31	38	30
Mansfield	24	7	7	10	30	30	28
Port Vale	24	7	6	11	27	31	27
Grimsby	25	6	9	10	31	40	27
Preston	25	5	8	12	20	37	23
Southend	25	5	7	13	35	57	22
Doncaster	25	6	3	16	21	45	21
York	25	2	8	15	27	51	14

SCOTTISH FIRST DIVISION: Clyde 1, Partick Thistle 2; Forfar Athletic 1, Meadowbank Thistle 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hamilton	27	15	6	6	48	25	36
Raith	27	15	5	9	59	41	35
Meadowbank	28	13	7	8	41	35	33
Airdrieonians	27	11	8	8	43	38	30
Forfar	28	9	11	8	46	39	29
Clyde	28	12	4	12	58	48	28
Clydebank	27	12	4	11	37	38	28
Partick	28	9	7	12	43	50	25
Queen of the Sth	27	7	10	10	36	52	24
Dumbarton	27	8	7	12	33	45	23
Kilmarnock	27	9	4	14	35	40	22
East Fife	27	5	6	15	36	59	16

Fourth division

BOLTON (1) Cane, Thomas, Thompson	3	SCARBORO (0) Kirk (pen) 6,286	1		
CAMBRIDGE(0) Clayton 3,975	1	PETERBORO(2) Halsall, Luke, Crowe og	3		
CARLISLE (2) Stevens, Poskett, Halpin 4,252	3	BURNLEY (2) Oghan, Wright og, Deeding, Davis	4		
CLCHESTER(0) 2,287	0	SCUNTHRPE(0) Downes (2), Lister	3		
DARLNTON (0) Hine 4,735	1	HRTLEPOOL(0) Baker	1		
L ORIENT (0) 4,839	0	TORQUAY (1) Caldwell 2	2		
NEWPORT (1) Gibbins 1,897	1	EXETER Olsson	(1)	1	
ROCHDALE (0) 2,050	0	HALIFAX (0)	0		
SWANSEA (0) Allon, Raynor 10,300	2	CARDIFF (0) Ford, Gilligan	2		
TRANMERE (2) Muir 2 (1 pen), Steel, McCarrick	4	STOCKPORT(0) 3,670	0		
WOLVES (1) Bull 2	2	HEREFORD (0) 14,577	0		
WREXHAM (0) Russell 2 (1 pen) 2,539	2	CREWE (0) Pemberton	1		

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wolves	24	14	5	5	42	20	47
Colchester	25	14	4	7	36	24	46
Leyton O	25	12	7	6	53	34	43
Cardiff	25	12	7	6	36	28	43
Bolton	25	12	6	7	34	25	42
Torquay	24	12	5	7	38	25	41
Scunthorpe	25	10	9	6	41	32	39
Scarborough	25	10	8	7	35	28	38
Burnley	25	11	4	10	32	30	37
Crewe	25	8	12	5	38	31	36
Darlington	24	10	6	8	41	35	36
Hartlepool	25	9	9	7	32	29	36
Cambridge	25	10	5	10	31	28	35
Swansea	25	10	5	10	37	36	35
Halifax	24	9	7	8	31	29	33
Peterborough	24	9	5	10	29	32	32
Hereford	25	8	7	10	23	30	31
Wrexham	25	8	5	12	28	34	29
Tranmere	25	9	2	14	31	39	29
Exeter	24	7	6	11	31	36	27
Carlisle	24	7	3	14	40	55	24
Stockport	25	6	5	14	21	36	23
Rochdale	25	5	7	13	25	54	22
Newport	24	3	3	18	20	52	12

Hogg to stay

Graeme Hogg, of Manchester United, has rejected a move to West Bromwich Albion for the second time in a week. Ron Atkinson, the West Bromwich Albion manager, went back to Old Trafford in an attempt to persuade Hogg to play for the struggling Midlands club. Atkinson said: "So far as I am concerned this is now the end of the matter."

TENNIS

Final place for stylish Beecher

Colin Beecher began the new year in superb style in the semi-finals of the Prudential British junior indoor championships at Queen's Club, London.

The Kent player beat Danny Bishop 6-4, 6-4 in 99 minutes. However, Beecher will start as underdog in today's final against Mark Petchey, aged 17, who played inconsistently before beating Chris Wilkinson 6-2, 6-4.

Ginny Humphreys-Davies of Cambridge and Lindsey Nimmo of Sutton Coldfield will meet in the girls' singles final.

SEMI-FINALS: Boys: Singles: M Petchey (Essex) bt C Wilkinson (Hants) 6-2, 6-4; C Beecher (Kent) bt D Bishop (Yorks) 6-4, 6-4. Doubles: R Matheson (W of Scotland) and Beecher bt R Collings and A Moir (Essex), 6-2, 6-4; U Nganga (Norfolk) and C Wilkinson (Hants) bt D Ireland and M Robbins (Leics), 6-2, 2-6, 6-3. Girls: Singles: G Humphreys-Davies (Cambs) bt J Donovan (Warwicks) 3-6, 6-3, 6-3; L Nimmo (Warwicks) bt N Topper (Yorks) 7-5, 6-1. Doubles: A Driver (Lancs) and Topper bt H Walters (Essex) and Donovan, 1-6, 6-3, 6-4; A Hill (Devon) and M Loughton (Yorks) bt B Griffiths (Suffolk) and Humphreys-Davies, 6-2, 6-4.

CYCLING

Pyne off to a flying start to beat Bradley

Martin Pyne, riding for a new club yesterday, set a course record to become the first time trial winner of the year. The Suffolk rider, now of the Polytechnic-Air Canada club, won the CC Breckland 10-mile event at Wymondham in 21min 54sec (Peter Bryan writes).

"Fortunately, the rain held off until I was just finishing," he said, "but the final four miles were particularly hard riding into a head wind. On a good day, the course has potential, though."

Pyne's expected challenger, Ian Cammish, Britain's best all-round champion, was pushed into third place by Richard Bradley, who has been off his bike for three months with sciatica in his left knee.

RESULTS: CC Breckland 10-mile: 1, M Pyne (Polytechnic-Air Canada), 21min 54sec; 2, R Bradley (Anglia Sport), 22-55; 3, I Cammish (Manchester Wheelers), 23-4. Team: CC Breckland.

ATHLETICS

Knives out for Hackney

By Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent

Liz McColgan should have little trouble retaining her Belfast international cross-country title at Malusk this afternoon, although it will be interesting to see how close Jane Shields, the English champion, and the rapidly emerging Jill Hunter can get to the Scot, who won the silver medal at the world championships last year.

But in the men's race, they will be coming at Roger Hackney from all sides to prevent him from a third successive victory.

Hackney could barely have got one of the scalpels he uses as an RAF surgeon between himself and Gerry Curtis at the finish line last year.

In addition to Curtis today, Hackney will

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Liverpool smiling all the way to the trophy bank

By Ian Ross

Liverpool..... 4
Coventry City..... 0

Liverpool showed the form that has set them apart this season. The Football League's engraver could confidently cut the club's name on the base of the new Barclays Trophy this morning and not lose a moment's sleep worrying about whether he would be called to book at a later stage.

It was the eighth occasion since mid-August that Kenny Dalglish's side had plundered four goals in a match, and with Nottingham Forest — who must face Everton at Goodison Park tomorrow — surprisingly losing at home to Newcastle United, they have extended their advantage at the top to 13 points while stretching their unbeaten League run to 22 games.

Of their other leading challengers, Everton lost and Arsenal and Manchester United drew.

While the managers of an increasingly small band of genuine rivals will continue to pontificate about the likelihood of a mid-term dip in form, it would seem that on this occasion, at least, there is *such a thing as a foregone* conclusion in modern football.

This may not be the most talented side in Liverpool's illustrious history but it is the most durable and the most effective. John Sillett, the Coventry team manager, was lavish in his praise.

" No one can beat them in the first division or touch them in terms of the championship," he said. "They are superb. We have gone the way of so many other teams. To play 22 matches in the first division without losing is brilliant. You simply have to take your hat off to them."

Coventry, the last side to inflict a League defeat on Liverpool back in early May, possibly came with the intention of practising the age-old adage about attack being the best form of defence. Unfortunately, they were to discover at a relatively early stage that it is difficult to exert authority when opponents treat you with disdain.

Coventry's problems were placed in perspective as an embarrassingly one-sided opening half neared its conclusion. With Liverpool for once reluctant to clear their lines, Phillips stole in with his side's first shot of the game.

The effort succeeded only in dislodging raindrops from the roof of the famous Kop terracing. Such was the disproportionate distribution of power that Coventry presumably *logged it as a near miss.*

Despite their constant inventiveness, Liverpool's passage towards another comprehensive victory was eased by Coventry's willingness to stab at the panic button whenever danger threatened. It is a familiar response at Anfield and one possibly borne out of a feeling of inferiority.

Liverpool are quite capable of winning games without the help of other sides and yet, as is often the case, it was a lamentable and avoidable defensive error which was to pave the way for the opening goal. A Barnes corner was partially cleared and in his desperation Smith nudged the ball wide of Ogrizovic, allowing Beardsley his first goal in two months.

Countless chances were squandered before Liverpool doubled their advantage in the 53rd minute when Aldridge side-footed home a Nicol cross at the near post. With Coventry more intent on saving face rather than points, Liverpool gave full vent to their powers.

Fourteen minutes from the end, Houghton stabbed home from 10 yards after a Barnes free kick had been neatly flicked on by Beardsley. It was brilliant but simple: the hallmark of Liverpool's play for more than 20 years.

The rout was completed by Beardsley, who was allowed to amble forward before driving fiercely into the bottom corner.

LIVERPOOL: B Grobbelaar; G Gillespie, B Venison (sub: G Ablett), S Nicol, R Whelan, A Hansen, P Beardsley, J Aldridge, R Houghton, J Barnes, S McMahon (sub: N Spackman).
COVENTRY CITY: S Ogrizovic; B Borrows, G Downs, L McGrath, B Kilcline, K Smith, D Bennett (sub: S Livingstone), D Phillips, C Regis, D Speedie, M Gynn (sub: G Rodger).
Referee: D Phillips.



Eightsome reel at the Anfield ball: Smith (left) trips the light fantastic as Aldridge puts his best foot forward into 1988

Barnes is forced off pitch

Bobby Barnes, the Swindon Town winger, had to be manhandled off the field by his team-mates and manager Lou Macari after being dismissed in the home second division match against West Bromwich Albion yesterday.

Barnes refused to leave the field after being sent off for arguing with the referee, John Martin, in the 58th minute of the match, which Swindon went on to win 2-0.

Two other players were sent off yesterday to take the total for the season so far to 150, well on the way to a record. The worst season for dismissals was 1982-83 when 229 players were sent off.

Peter Ward, the Huddersfield Town midfield player, was sent off at Shrewsbury Town three minutes after coming on as substitute. He had clashed with Shrewsbury's new Scottish signing, Doug Bell. Steve Whitton, of Birmingham City, was sent off for dissent at Bournemouth.

Jim Smith, the Queen's Park Rangers manager, criticized police advice which set a midday kick-off for their game against Southampton which attracted only 8,631, the second lowest gate of the season.

"It is ridiculous for matches like this and completely unnecessary," Smith said. "It does nothing to help the public to get to the match and I would have thought they would have been crying out for somewhere to go this afternoon.

Tottenham Hotspur would also have been disappointed with the attendance of 25,235 at White Hart Lane for the 2-1 win over Watford. However, there were some better attendances in the north, particularly at Elland Road where Leeds United attracted 36,004 for their 2-0 win over Bradford

Forest crack as season begins to take its toll

By Dennis Shaw

Nottingham Forest..... 0
Newcastle United..... 2

The Achilles heel which inevitably threatens to undermine Nottingham Forest's rather forlorn pursuit of Liverpool was fully exploited by Newcastle, who stopped them in their tracks at the City Ground yesterday.

Youthful zest has fuelled Forest's drive so far, but their immaturity looks ominously to have led to the sort of battle fatigue which will not afflict the men from Anfield. The first home defeat suffered by Brian Clough's team since September 12 was due to goals *from Gascoigne and* Mirandinha.

Between them, the goals illustrated so many of the qualities Forest lacked on the day. Gascoigne's, after 28 minutes, was buried with emphatic, precise simplicity yards out of Sutton's reach; Mirandinha's, five minutes from time, was an exercise in solo flair with a stunning cross- shot rounding off a 30-yard surge down the right.

The few seconds of Brazilian finesse achieved three objectives. They left defenders on their backsides, ended Forest's brave and ever-present promise of an equalizer, and froze the insulting chants of the moronic minority in their throats.

Newcastle deserved their victory. Their teamwork was impressive,cemented firmly by unselfish running and covering. Certainly they defended or packed the midfield for spells, but they did so both thoughtfully and effectively.

Comparisons between Webb and Gascoigne as international-class midfield players were superfluous. The only positive conclusion is that Bobby Robson, the England manager, is fortunate to have two such players among his new breed.

Forest were never able to promise the kind of four-goal display which floored first Queen's Park Rangers and then Coventry City in their previous two home games. Neither Plummer nor Rice were able to break free of strategically placed defenders to provide a consistent service. Gaynor, who was withdrawn, and Glover were not confident with the chances that came their way. Rice missed from six yards with a far simpler chance than the one with which Gascoigne scored.

Clough has worked a minor miracle in guiding his refreshing new team to such a lofty status, despite injury problems. Now, however, he needs his son back in the middle of the attack and Carr out on the right to recharge flagging batteries.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST: S Sutton; S Chettle, S Pearce, D Walker, C Foster, T Wilson, C Plummer, N Webb, L Glover, T Gaynor (sub: P Starbuck), B Rice.
NEWCASTLE UNITED: G Kelly; J Anderson, K Wharton, D McCreery, P Jackson, G Roeder, K McDonald, P Gascoigne, P Goddard, Mirandinha, J Cornwell.
Referee: J Worrall.

Lukic's penalty save spares depleted Arsenal agony

By a Special Correspondent

Portsmouth..... 1
Arsenal..... 1

Arsenal's lingering hopes of denying Liverpool the League title were kept alive by a penalty save by John Lukic with three minutes remaining of an intensely competitive match in the Fratton Park mud yesterday.

Arsenal did little to suggest they would again become a serious threat to Liverpool in an inconsistent performance and their worries increased when Hilaire toppled under a challenge from Caesar and the referee pointed to the spot. Lukic dived to his left to push away Dillon's kick and according to George Graham, the Arsenal manager, justice was done.

Portsmouth, third from bottom, represented a more formidable proposition than in August when they lost 6-0 at Highbury. Without O'Leary and Sansom, both injured, the Arsenal defence looked insecure on the greasy surface.

Portsmouth still needed the confidence of an early goal and Arsenal obliged with a series of errors in the ninth minute. Winterburn, making his first full appearance to replace Sansom, Adams and Caesar all gave the ball away and Connor punished them with a fierce low shot from 10 yards which went in off Lukic's body.

Lukic was twice forced to race from his goal to deny the eager Connor as the Arsenal *defence was caught square.* He then dived to palm away a firm header from Blake as Portsmouth showed a brand of enterprise which earned a standing ovation at half-time.

Portsmouth were unable to sustain these efforts and Arsenal began to emerge as an attacking force once Graham made his substitutions midway through the second half. Smith and Merson came on for Quinn and Groves and Portsmouth immediately lost command.

Hayes had a shot cleared from the line by Ball, a spirited Portsmouth defender, and Knight made an outstanding diving save from an Adams header.

An equalizer appeared inevitable, but did not arrive until 10 minutes from time when Knight dropped an inswinging corner from Richardson under pressure from Hayes. Smith promptly forced in his first goal in three months and his fourth this season against Portsmouth.

Graham revealed that Davis, an influential figure in midfield, would be out for six weeks after undergoing a hernia operation yesterday. The England under-21 international's power and touch were missed by Arsenal who have now only won once in nine matches and owe it to Lukic for preventing their third successive defeat.

PORTSMOUTH: A Knight; C Whitehead, P Hardyman, K Dillon, N Blake, K Ball, B Horne, M Kennedy, M Quinn (sub: P Mariner), T Connor, V Hilaire.
ARSENAL: J Lukic; M Thomas, N Winterburn, S Williams, Li Caesar, A Adams, D Rocastle, M Hayes, N Quinn (sub: A Smith), P Groves (sub: P Merson), K Richardson.
Referee: R Hamer.

Wimbledon join the chasers

As all the other leading teams lost ground on Liverpool in the race for the first division championship, **Wimbledon** yesterday joined a group of six which have formed a chasing pack behind the runaway leaders.

Their 2-1 victory at home to **Derby County** was their fourth in succession — and third over the holiday period — and leaves them in seventh place, six points clear of eighth-placed Luton Town.

Callaghan had put Derby ahead in the 35th minute when he drove a free-kick past Beasant from 25 yards. But six minutes later, Cork equalized at the end of a fine move.

Fairweather had shrugged off a challenge from Forsyth to find Wise, whose cross was headed on by Fashanu, presenting Cork with the chance. Fashanu was on hand again in the 61st minute to head a Wise cross into the goal for his fourteenth of the season and victory.

Norwich City staged a remarkable second-half recovery to beat **West Ham United** 4-1 and ease their relegation fears. It was the third successive victory for the improving side, a suitable celebration of Dave Stringer's confirmation as manager. Cottee had given West Ham the lead after 27 minutes, but Norwich responded with second-half goals by Gordon, Drinkell, Bowen and Rosario.

As the race for promotion from the second division becomes closer still, goals from D'Avray and Lowe were more than welcome by **Ipswich Town** as they defeated **Stoke City** 2-1, after the visitors had taken the lead through Morgan after just eight minutes.

At the other end of the second division table, **Reading** scored three times in the last 16 minutes against **Plymouth Argyle** to move off bottom spot for the first time in five weeks, goals from Gilkes (a penalty), Jones and Moran wrapping up the points

END COLUMN

Nicholas must go back to his roots

By Clive White

It is one of English football's great ironies that while it professes to appreciate great skill, it seldom seems capable of accommodating it. It is a sad indictment of the Barclays *League that players like* Glenn Hoddle and Charlie Nicholas should be compelled to seek their fortunes elsewhere.

Rarely, though, has skill been more suffocated than in the sad case of Nicholas. Happily, now almost with a display of compassion, Scotland is poised to reclaim Nicholas should he concede on Monday to Ian Porterfield, the Aberdeen manager, that his turbulent affair with English football is over after four and a half years.

An Irishman, an Englishman and even a Scotsman have consecutively failed to fathom exactly where a special skill like Nicholas's fits into the hurly-burly of the English game. Terry Neill was sufficiently convinced that he paid £750,000 for the player; Don Howe, the England coach, persevered with Nicholas at Highbury in just about every position but in the end had to concede defeat; and finally George Graham gave up the puzzle just three games after giving his fellow Scot a new contract.

That was last summer after Nicholas had given Graham a major trophy in his first season with the club — with both goals in the Littlewoods Cup final defeat of Liverpool. Nicholas was a hero again, though in the eyes of the North Bank supporters he had never been anything else. But Graham was never convinced about Nicholas's contribution to the team and there could be no argument that in the matter of goal-scoring he was a failure — 34 goals in 151 League games.

It was all in stark contrast to the reputation he enjoyed be-



Nicholas: misplaced person

fore coming down from Glasgow where he scored 48 goals in 74 League games for Celtic. He became the toast of the town, Champagne Charlie, and was only too happy to drink to it.

France seemed an appropriate sanctuary for Nicholas's talents, as it has proved to be for Hoddle's, when Toulon came in for him two months ago. But they could not agree terms with Arsenal having met the demands of Nicholas. Until Aberdeen struck a cut-price fee of £450,000 with Arsenal on New Year's Eve no other club, other than an inconsequential French one, had come in for the player this season.

During the summer, Celtic showed an interest in bringing back their prodigal son but Nicholas opted to stay at Arsenal, regarding Celtic as a backward step. Rebuffed, Billy McNeill, the man who first sold Nicholas, was not about to come back for the player when Nicholas changed his mind.

The player still feels aggrieved that he has not been given a chance this season to prove himself. He believes that three matches was insufficient time for he and Smith, the new signing, to strike up an understanding.

Nicholas points out that the opposition in those games, in which Arsenal scored once, could hardly have been more awkward — at home to Liverpool and away against Manchester United and Queen's Park Rangers, the early season leaders.

The day he was dropped Arsenal scored six against Portsmouth. And when Arsenal set forth on a run of 14 consecutive victories there was, to be fair to Graham, no way Nicholas could return.

Graham insisted at a lunch recently that at the right time and the right place he would recall Nicholas from the wilderness of reserve football, where he has scored 10 goals in 14 games. But when Arsenal's form turned sour there was no sign of Nicholas.

His depression reached its nadir earlier this week when he was quoted as saying that he was seriously considering giving up the game altogether.

It is hoped that he will give Aberdeen the opportunity to rekindle the magic.

A dawn start for journey to Dakar

From Jeremy Hart, Paris

With just a five-hour respite in between, Paris had a double celebration in the early hours of New Year's Day. Hot-foot from the midnight festivities in the Champs-Elysées, 30,000 Parisians headed for Versailles and the dawn start of the tenth Paris-Dakar rally.

Jan de Rooy's huge twin-engined DAF truck was the first vehicle to emerge from under the searchlights in the Place d'Armes. The Paris-Dakar veteran sounded his way through the tunnel of spectators with blasts on his horn.

In an attempt to alleviate the considerable delays of last year as the entrants queued to board to trans-Mediterranean ferries near Montpellier, the organizers waved off the 109 trucks in the rally before the rest of the 602-strong field.

Within five hours of De Rooy's departure, the final vehicles had navigated the normally packed Périphérique ring road en route for Sète — *500 miles to the south.*

Wary of last year's supposedly easy run to the coast, when his Range Rover lost a wheel, Ted Toleman, smiled confidently when asked whether he had checked his wheel nuts on his Metro TG 88.

The team suffered a setback following Wednesday's prologue outside Paris — their Iveco support truck crashed

"The truck in front missed a gear and virtually stopped dead as our truck came up to overtake . . . there is a lot of superficial damage but nothing structural," a team spokesman said.

England lose both centres

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

England's preparations for the Five Nations Rugby Union championship were disrupted yesterday by the enforced withdrawal of two centres from both today's trial at Twickenham between England and an England B XV *and from the opening match* in Paris on January 16.

Simon Halliday, the Bath centre, capped three times, and John Buckton, the uncapped Saracens centre, were unable to complete the England training session at Lensbury, both because of strained hamstrings. And both were told by Geoff Cooke, the England manager, that they could not be considered for the French match.

Kevin Simms and Will Carling will play in the senior side today, their places in the B team being filled by Gary Hartley and Bryan Barley.

England's midfield preparations were cast into complete disarray because Les Cusworth, the senior stand-off, had influenza and domestic ties (his wife, Marcia, had their second baby last weekend), which delayed him travelling from Leicester yesterday. He is, however, optimistic that he will be able to play today.

Cooke said: "The absences made a nonsense of the practice session, although the forwards have got together and had a worthwhile session. Les is desperately keen to play in the trial, but a lot will depend on how he feels tomorrow."

Halliday damaged his hamstring playing in the first round of the divisional championship a month ago. *Buckton's injury occurred late* in the North's game against the Midlands on December 19.

For both men it will be disappointing to miss the trials, particularly since Halliday may have been cast as the powerful physical presence around whom England might have constructed their midfield.

Trial preview, page 28

Losing too easy at present for Meo

By Steve Acteson

Alex Higgins moved ponderously into the last 16 of the Mercantile Credit Classic snooker tournament in Blackpool yesterday by beating an even more lacklustre Tony Meo, 5-3, in a match both men seemed more frightened of losing than anxious to win.

Higgins's enforced exile from the game in the early season has pushed him down to a provisional eighteenth in the rankings for next season, while Meo, his confidence in tatters, is currently ranked twentieth

It would be uncharitable to suggest that either player was suffering from a seasonal hangover, but at least that would have been an excuse for the play, riddled as it was with errors. There were only three substantial breaks: Meo's 76 in the second frame which took him 2-0 ahead, and Higgins's runs of 59 and 74 in the next two games to level.

After three more scrappy frames, Meo missing a simple black to lose the first of them, Higgins led 4-3, and when Meo was cruelly denied a frame-winning chance in the eighth, when he had a "kick" on the black, Higgins captured the frame 54-40 for victory

Higgins, who plays either Steve Davis, the defending champion, or John Donnelly in the fifth round, said: "I am happy enough to start the new year with a win. I have been a bit inactive and done very little, but I was very determined."

FOURTH ROUND: A Higgins (NI) bt A Meo (Eng), 5-3. Frame scores (Higgins first): 56-65, 7-78, 81-34, 84-23, 61-47, 18-68, 86-20, 54-40. J Parrott (Eng) bt David Taylor (Eng), 5-0. Frame scores (Parrott first): 72-43, 66-58, 81-2, 56-14, 71-36.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Staines hit by mix-up

Gary Staines, the British runner, returned from the Madrid San Silvestre New Year's race yesterday and claimed a course mix-up hadstopped him winning.

"I had a 50m lead with about 400 metres to go when the lead car took me off course and Jose-Luis Gonzalez run past to the proper finish," he said. Gonzales recorded 22min 17sec for the 7.7km course, with Staines on 22:24, and Steve Harris, another Briton, third in 22:36.

Bid for Turner

Oldham Rugby League Club last night made a five figure bid for Neil Turner, Doncaster's highly-rated winger, who scored twice in their recent 17-16 defeat at Oldham.



Waugh: Smethwick deal

Waugh wooed

Steve Waugh, the Australian Test player, hopes to finalize a *deal in the next few weeks to* play for Smethwick, the Birmingham league club, this summer when not required by Somerset.

McEnroe out

Adelaide (AP) — John McEnroe has pulled out of the Rio challenge exhibition tennis tournament here on January 6 to 9 with a back injury and is replaced by Johan Kriek.

Way ahead

Garmisch-Partenkirchen (AP) — Matti Nykaenen, the World Cup leader, soared more than 100 metres in both his jumps to win yesterday's second round of the four-hill ski jumping tour.

Jameson joust

Perth (Agencies) — Andy Jameson, of England, fresh from winning the United States long course 100 metre butterfly title in 53.63sec, will swim against Barry Armstrong, the Australian champion, in the Uncle Toby's international challenge here today.

Wilson ill

Jocky Wilson, of Scotland, missed the MFI British Open darts championship for the second successive year yesterday when he failed to turn up for his first round match at the Kensington Rainbow hotel because of an ulcer complaint.

Imran rejects appeal

Karachi (Reuter) — Imran Khan, Pakistan's former captain, said yesterday that his decision to retire from international cricket was still unchanged, despite an appeal to him to make a comeback.

The Pakistan Board of Control for Cricket earlier this week asked the all-rounder to come out of retirement and lead the team on the forthcoming tour of the West Indies, following Javed Miandad's decision to vacate the captaincy in order to concentrate on his batting.

"I have been tempted to accept the challenge, particularly as this tour had not been announced when I took the decision to retire," Imran said, but he added, "My decision to retire was made after a great deal of thought and remains unchanged."

However, despite his decision to remain in retirement, Pakistani officials are optimistic that Imran will eventually change his mind and lead Pakistan on the eight-week tour which begins on March 5.

Imran is due to leave for Bombay today on a private visit for a few days. When he returns, he is likely to see Pakistan Cricket Board officials before they finally announce the tour party.

"After Miandad's unwillingness to captain the team on the tour, we need a man like Imran to mould the side," thw board selection committee chairman, Haseeb Ahsan, said.

Royal trainer collapses

By Michael Seely

Fulke Walwyn, one of the outstanding trainers in the history of National Hunt racing, was making good progress in hospital last night after collapsing at Cheltenham races yesterday afternoon.

A spokeswoman for Cheltenham General Hospital, where the 77-year-old royal trainer was admitted with a blood circulation problem, said: "He is quite perky and his condition is not too serious."

In view of his existing heart condition, though, Walwyn will be detained for observation for a couple of days after being transferred from intensive care to the hospital's cardiac ward.

Walwyn's skill as a trainer of staying chasers is legendary. And as a successful jockey before the war, he won the 1936 Grand National on Reynoldstown.

From his Saxon House stables in Lambourn, he has trained four winners of the Cheltenham Gold Cup, six of the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup and an unprecedented seven winners of the Whitbread Gold Cup

He has also won the Champion Hurdle twice and the Grand National

Mill House, Mandarin, The Dikler and Diamond Edge are but four of the great chasers to have passed through his hands.

Racing, pages 28 and 29